

The Monthly Oracle



PERSONAL CHALLENGE

A lot of us have been put to the test as to who we are NOW and where our priorities now lie. This can provoke insecurity and feelings of inadequacy as we have to be pried away from doing what we have always done; and could continue to do through habit, if the program is not altered radically.

The time for doing what we have always done is over. There are new spaces we need to learn about so we are invited to move into the void space where nature can abhor the vacuum that has been created. When an individual experiences this it is not easy, when collectives experience it the logistics take longer as there is more to be made ready. If the invitation is turned down we will be left to our own devices, if we accept we may need a little time to understand that our previous endeavors are a done deal

and it is the time to respond with grace and pass those jobs over to others. We can do this with a gracious mature adult attitude in which case we will catch on quickly, or we can sulk, fume, be impatient and create unnecessary dramas.

WHAT IS SERVICE?

Service to others is no soft touch, and the more subtle the service the more we must be readied and prepared. Recently spiritual service to others was described to me as 'A twilight world of loneliness and squabbles with darkness all around it'. We will have to remain centered when the arrogant and the opinionated throw their weight around and tell you they know better and try to take over. Let them, they will find out soon enough for themselves and then we can be there if they want us to be. Then there are the critical, so much eas-

"News and views"

A quote by Oscar Wilde said "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars." That about sums up the last few months, we have been encouraged to update and upgrade where we are and what we want. Some roles we have played are no longer appropriate to us and while we insist on continuing to play them we do a disservice to ourselves and all others. Time to accept and to decide who we are NOW and to let go of all that is no longer appropriate to us. Yes this means the willingness to change and be changed and trusting that it is good for all of us, even if we do not understand the full implications as yet. As we do this we begin to move forward blind in faith. If we know ourselves as well as we are able to, so much the better. This is the time to choose where we want to set our sights as best we can understand them. Once this is done we can safely 'Let go and let God'. We have become who we are, so what we once strived for is now irrelevant and now it is the time to raise the bar. We need to make a public statement or prayer as to what we want in broad outline, then to let the 'Management Upstairs' feed back to us through the living experience of life on earth that mystery clue by clue until it becomes a reality within our life. The outer edge of the jigsaw is in place and all the pieces are cut. Time now to begin to fit them together. That takes patience and persistence, both within oneself and with others. Let's begin the New Year with compassion.



ier to pick holes in another rather than get in there and deliver oneself renewed later on.

If the intuitive is good they will know beyond a shadow of doubt what is being said about them behind their back. If charm is demonstrated externally it can be confusing. We may put up with it for awhile or we may just walk away. Then there are those who do all they can to dishonor you and what you represent and who rush in and try to take over and fill the gaps they think you have left. Turn the other cheek they will learn in time elsewhere with other people. We do not have to stand and watch, but we do have to deal with our resentment and our pain when we are dismissed as unfit for purpose. It may not be externally expressed but have no doubt we will know.

Those who consider themselves perfect must by default consider us imperfect. So certain are they of their 'rightness' we must be wrong and so will feel wronged. It may appear very selfish and uncaring yet it is really the humanness of evolution. Consider when babies are new born they are demanding, protesting if not looked after to their standard of satisfac-

tion, they have no thoughts about wondering if their parents are tired, fed up or feeling up to their demands. As children, play is all important and anything that facilitates this good news. As teenagers we negotiate for freedom and will do all in our power to

get the freedom we consider we need, absolutely sure we will cope with what comes. Arrogant in the extreme until we meet someone or something we cannot cope with we don't learn. More humble and modest then and more willing to work within a collective framework. Only after all this do we take on the mantle and responsibility of a more mature person who wants to make a contribution and we either succeed beyond our wildest dreams or we fail and we must try again.

This physical growth formula holds true for our emotional responses to challenges from situations and people we had not anticipated. For our intellectual capacities of understanding must move beyond the historical formulas as required to be able to receive spiritual instruction prior to placement in service. This may not have been consciously anticipated or be exactly to our liking. But if the demand is created; are we ready to meet the challenge?

Only if we are able to uncover our wounds and heal them rather than continuing to practice 'band aid' therapy. My achilles heel was being made responsible for and having to

serve a very diffuse and diverse group as opposed to just wanting to be a loved part of such a group. A free and equal respectful group where there was lots of love for others but also one that felt loving and caring as well. But with the intention of doing the best possible thing for others, there comes with it an isolation and a loneliness that can feel uncomfortable.. Only through awareness, acknowledgement, respect for all and an attitude of ease can one feel free and freed even when taking responsibility for others care whether they like it, understand it, honor it or not..

IN COMING TIMES

As more and more people become spiritually aware there is a need for those who have had personal experience to aid in anchoring this facility within life. Though experience they will have developed an immunity and so can act as guides to others awakening now. They must be capable of tough love and unselfishly encourage others to be authentic and practice their skill and insist on the work that is necessary to get there. As well there must be gentleness and real care when others become discouraged. We must know how to act to enable both encouragement and development to run side by side. For both are essential to enable people to stabilize and so become of value to those here in a human body on the earth.

As well as some people being awakened there will be others who refuse to awaken and are stubbornly resistant. As a result some communities will break up and others will develop for two differing state of con-

sciousness cannot exist side by side with any level of comfort beyond a certain point, new directions must result.

When we experience a major change of the state of consciousness and its perceived identity we and others are impacted and as a result things have to change sometimes requiring a repositioning of relationships, locations, working environments and so on. From now until the summer we will begin to understand what is required of us and of others surrounding us. We will find ways of anchoring ourselves to maximize opportunity and potential and begin to understand OUR piece of the puzzle. Then if we have the courage to take the next step we walk forward blind in faith.

If not we self limit and stay put. If we do choose to stay put we can still be of use however our full potential will not be realized.

We must be who we are now and live our truth after we have upgraded and updated. So who am I now is the question, not who was I once. This is no longer a theory we know of, it must be integrated with practical knowledge through personal experience at a cellular level. We will be forced to let go residual ego attachment and work from gut feeling and the intuitive guidance, as we may have to respond without having a clear idea of what we are doing. We walk the walk, blind in faith, only understanding the implications later.

Only when we are capable of being the detached observer can we 'see' what is required without imposing judgement or attachment to an outcome. We must know ourselves to be able to interface with others in a complimentary

manner. Trying to be other than what or who we are now is a recipe for disaster not only for ourselves; we put others at risk as well. Our inner state must unite with our external propaganda - we must come out of the closet and put our spirituality first if we are to find our next place, otherwise we are only reactive to mental programs that have controlled behaviors in the external world of the past. This also prevents others surrounding us from taking their rightful place. Like musical chairs we must get up and find another chair for it is time for others to take their place on the one we just vacated. We get in the way if we continue to sit on it!

"Everything is Dual; everything has poles; everything has its pair of opposites; like and unlike are the same; opposites are identical in nature, but different in degree; extremes meet; all truths are but half-truths; all paradoxes may be reconciled."

- The Kybalion.

THE ZEN OF SARCASM

1. Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me either. Just pretty much leave me alone.
2. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tire.
3. It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.
4. Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
5. Always remember that you're unique. Just like everyone else.
6. Never test the depth of the wa-

ter with both feet.

7. If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.
8. Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
9. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is probably not for you.
10. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.
11. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably a wise investment.
12. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
13. Some days you're the bug; some days you're the windshield
14. Everyone seems normal until you get to know them
15. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.
16. A closed mouth gathers no foot.
17. Duct tape is like 'The Force'. It has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.
18. There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.
19. Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.
20. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
21. Never miss a good chance to shut up
22. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.



Dear Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder, and your hand over my mouth..

FOR SISTERS AND WOMAN AND FOR BROTHERS AND MEN

A young wife sat on a sofa on a hot humid day, drinking iced tea and visiting with her mother. As they talked about life, about marriage, about the responsibilities of life and the obligations of adulthood, the mother clinked the ice cubes in her glass thoughtfully and turned a clear, sober glance upon her daughter..

'Don't forget your sisters,' she advised, swirling the tea leaves to the bottom of her glass. 'They'll be more important as you get older. No matter how much you love your husband, no matter how much you love the children you may have, you are still going to need sisters. Remember to go places with them now and then; do things with them..'

'Remember that 'sisters' means ALL the women... your girlfriends,

your daughters, and all your other women relatives too. 'You'll need other women. Women always do.' What a funny piece of advice!' the young woman thought. Haven't I just gotten married? Haven't I just joined the couple-world? I'm now a married woman, for goodness sake! A grownup! Surely my husband and the family we may start will be all I need to make my life worthwhile!'

But she listened to her mother. She kept contact with her sisters and made more women friends each year. As the years tumbled by, one after another, she gradually came to understand that her mother really knew what she was talking about. As time and nature work their changes and their mysteries upon a woman, sisters are the mainstays of her life..

THIS SAYS IT ALL:

Time passes.
Life happens.
Distance separates.
Children grow up.
Jobs come and go.
Love waxes and wanes.
Men don't do what they're supposed to do.
Hearts break.
Parents die.
Colleagues forget favors.
Careers end.
BUT..... Sisters are there, no matter how much time and how many miles are between you. A girl friend is never farther away than needing her can reach.

When you have to walk that lonesome valley and you have to walk it by yourself, the women in your life will be on the valley's rim, cheering you on, praying for you, pulling for you, intervening on your behalf,

and waiting with open arms at the valley's end..

Sometimes, they will even break the rules and walk beside you...Or come in and carry you out. Girl-friends, daughters, granddaughters, daughters-in-law, sisters, sisters-in-law, Mothers, Grandmothers, aunts, nieces, cousins, and extended family: all bless our life!

The world wouldn't be the same without women, and neither would I. When we began this adventure called womanhood, we had no idea of the incredible joys or sorrows that lay ahead. Nor did we know how much we would need each other..

About these sisters - ten of them are peacefully sleeping on clouds. Nine are playing. And one is reading her/his email at this moment. (as true for men too)

IS WHAT YOU WANT WHO YOU NEED?

God doesn't give you the people you want, He gives you the people you NEED. To help you, to hurt you, to leave you, to love you and to make you into the person you were meant to be.

"The language of friendship is not words, but rather meanings. It is an intelligence above language." - Thoreau

"True love is neither physical, nor romantic. True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be and will not be." (Unknown)

**IN THE FALL WE LET GO
OF THE OLD, IN THE
WINTER WE REST AND
NOW WE GET READY
FOR THE NEW
IS YOUR EGO READY?**

The ego is that part in us which feeds off praise, compliments and success. When we live in the ego we are inevitably subject to feelings of superiority and inferiority, pride and worthlessness, success and failure. If we want to avoid these negative emotions we need to transcend the ego. If we can transcend the ego, we will find that people are instinctively more attracted to us, even though we are no longer trying to impress. It may seem a great paradox, yet, limiting the role of our ego can make a radical difference to our lives.

These are some factors which can reduce the power of the Ego.

1. Don't Try to Impress

Don't speak about your own achievements. Don't drop names of great people you have met. Avoid forcing your accomplishments and success into the conversation. If you have been successful in accumulating wealth, try to keep quiet about it. All these factors may impress your own ego, but, you can guarantee they will have little impact on other people.

2. Be aware of False Modesty.

Sometimes when we say, "Oh I'm absolutely hopeless". Actually what we are wanting is for people to respond. 'Oh no you're not, you're really good.'" Humility means that we don't take excessive pride in our achievements, but, it also means we don't exaggerate our failings in the hope of gaining sympathy.



3. Be Careful of Flattery.

We need to be careful about receiving praise, in some ways it can be as difficult as receiving criticism. The problem is that the ego likes receiving praise and so we can easily become addicted to being flattered. Don't seek out people who are keen to flatter us, as this is only feeding the ego. Also, be wary of flattering other people in the hope that they will return the compliment.

4. Don't use your Religion / Spirituality to Impress.

It is a mistake to feel that the practice of a religion / spiritual path gives us a moral superiority over other people. If we feel any superi-

ority we are missing the whole point of spirituality. Spirituality is about a feeling of oneness not of proving that one path is better than others. This can be one of the most insidious types of ego. This is because when we wrap up the ego in a sense of moral superiority, we can easily trick ourselves into thinking we are reducing the ego, when actually we are strengthening it.

5. Be Aware of the extended Ego.

Ego, is not just about feeling we are better than others. Our Ego can also be expressed via national / religious feeling. When we feel a pride or superiority in our religion / nation, there is still the same problem of ego but, it is expressed

through an extended sense of reality. This sense of superiority / pride is just as damaging as if it was contained to ourselves. However, we can feel that because it is not directly related to ourselves, somehow there is no ego involved.

6. Don't Speak badly of Others.

Quite often, when we speak ill of others there is a subtle attempt to make ourselves look better. We may not explicitly say it, but, when we point to someone's shortcomings we imply that we don't have these, and therefore we are much better than them. The important thing here is the motive. Be very vigilant; what is your inner motive for criticizing someone else? If it is to make you feel / look better, be very careful. The irony of course is that when we criticise someone, often we have the same imperfections ourselves, it is just that we find it easier to see them in other people.

7. What is Your Motivation for Doing Something?

If nobody knew that you had done it, would you still do the action with the same intensity? Can you work without expecting reward and praise? If you can do things selflessly with no desire for people to find out, this is a sign you do not give importance to the ego. If you only do things in the hope of praise, then you are working to satisfy the ego. The sad thing is that if you really work selflessly, at some point, your efforts will receive much greater recognition because people will come to also value the selfless motivation behind the action. Try doing some things but not let anybody know about it.

8. Don't rely on Your Physical Appearance to Impress.

If you rely on your physical beauty to impress this is definitely coming from the ego. This is not to say beauty is bad thing, far from it. But, real beauty is heightened by modesty and the absence of ego. Avoid paying excessive interest to your physical looks.

To reduce our ego, we have to give great importance to our thoughts and motivation behind our actions. We have to be very strict with ourselves and work out why we are doing something. To reduce the ego, requires great vigilance, we need to reflect on each action and motivation. However, to reduce the influence of the ego, is of great value, it is the key to achieving a sense of inner peace.

When we change the level of our awareness it often feels as if our ego has been smashed to pieces. It is more accurate to say that it is being rearranged! It become a tool of the soul with the soul as the toolbox. A teacher of mine once described it to me as the ego being smashed and then rebuilt as

a tool within the toolbox of God. This is not to say we do not have to report truth if asked we do, but if we are not asked then we keep quiet. It is important to realize that none of us have perfected these arts as yet we are practicing and will continue to do do all the time we are on the earth. So forgive others and yourself and just keep on going trying to improve without beating up on anyone.

SUCCESS

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived This is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson.

