

Many Paths, One Path

I follow no religion. I am not a believer in the customary sense of the word. I am an experienter. I am the Witness of what I refer to as “my life.”

My experience has shown me there is Something which cannot be described at the heart of all that is—this Something is the source of all that is. I sense this Something in my fellow human beings, I sense this Something in Nature, I sense this Something in our universe.

This Something may be experienced but cannot be named. When we apply a name to it, we immediately create a “veil” between us and our direct experience of this Something, this Source. Because of its limited nature, our symbol-generating symbol-dependent conscious intellect *requires* a name, a way to catalogue, classify, contain (and therefore limit) this Something—but no name is adequate for this Source of all that is, called by many names, such as God, but known only through an experience of the heart.

No philosophical or religious system can catalogue, classify or contain this Something. Such systems—all based on symbols and myths—require one’s personal experience to conform to authorities outside of oneself. They specify how one is *supposed to* experience this Something. Experiences (or proposed philosophical models) not conforming to orthodoxy are deemed heretical. But these often elaborate, complex and convoluted systems simply *increase* the “veils” or “distance” between us and the direct experience of the Source, this Something which we cannot describe or define but may experience.

Religions insist each person’s experience of this Something conform to a particular pattern and dogma or match the experience of someone else, perhaps that of a saint or savior or prophet or guru. This insistence attempts to override the experience of life.

We are conditioned to defer to and conform to authorities and sources *outside* ourselves—scriptures, priests, prophets and other religious authorities, seers and channels, gurus and mystics—rather than trust our own experience. In our lifetimes we accumulate many thought habits which lead us to automatically defer to authorities other than our own Inner Truth based on our unique experiences of our lives.

But each person can have her or his own unique experience of this Something. For some, the experience bounded by religious orthodoxy and customs. For some it is an experience of the “absent god” (atheism). For others, this Something is experienced via the mystic’s path (so-called) outside of conventional institutions, dogmas and orthodoxies. But finally each has his or her own unique experience, *each one of us is thus uniquely informing the Universe through our experience.*

Partly because of my religious upbringing but primarily for linguistic convenience, I often use the word God. But neither this word nor any word or concept the human mind can create describes this Something. This Essence of all that is beyond words.