

Gems from the Guide

Gem 239

God IS

This quote from [Pathwork Lecture 105 Humanity's Relationship to God in Various Stages of Development](#) speaks to how humanity's relationship to God changes through the centuries and in some way in each of us as we grow and develop in our individual lives. The earliest stage is atheistic where sections of humanity are too busy surviving to consider God. Then there is a period of awe and wonder, followed by periods where various religions with their dogmas and worldviews developed, then a period of atheism set in, where parts of humanity concluded there is no God. All of these times, including atheism (during which humanity or we as individuals become increasingly self-responsible), are positive steps. After years (or lifetimes) as an atheist (or agnostic) a person may awaken to moments of experiencing unitive consciousness. These times may become increasingly a more permanent way of life as one moves from states to a stage of unitive consciousness. This state is described as follows in Pathwork Lecture 105:

14 But when a certain point is passed in this stage, it is no longer possible to maintain the concept of atheism. The more any thought, concept, scientific fact, or philosophy is carried to its logical end and conclusion, the less is it possible to maintain an untruth or half-truth; or even a temporary state that had its healthy function at a certain period. When man passes through these various stages briefly discussed here, he is bound to arrive at the point when he uses his mind to question his own motives; to look at and into himself. Thus he cultivates awareness by facing the reality within. As he proceeds to do this, forever deeper levels of his psyche become liberated. In this liberation, genuine God-experience is the inevitable outcome. This genuine God-experience is very different from the childish belief in a self-projected God which the mind has created out of fear, weakness, and wishful-thinking. He no longer acts because he feels God demands or expects it of him. He lives in the now. He does not fear his imperfection and does not fear God's punishing him for it. He can see it without becoming frantic. Yet understanding its harm, but not fearing it, he will then see that not the imperfection itself is so harmful, but the lack of awareness of it; the fear of being punished for it; the pride of wanting to be above it. Being not frantic to get over it, he will have the calm to observe it, thereby understanding its background and its reason for existence. In this process, he grows out of it. As man cultivates this attitude, he makes a genuine experience of God possible. On the other hand, it is the occasional glimpse and sense of it that facilitates the proper attitude toward one's self.

15 This genuine God-experience is being. God is not perceived as acting -- punishment or reward, or guidance along certain ways in order to take away the effort of man. He realizes that **God is**. This is very difficult to explain in words, my friends. But it is the only way I can say it. You cannot come to this feeling that God is, if you do not first face what is in you right now, imperfect, faulty, childish as it may be.

16

It would be misleading to assume that each of these stages I described here roughly, follow neatly one after the other. They overlap. They do not always follow in this order, because the human personality is not made up of one level. It is, as you know, conflicting. Different layers of the personality express different attitudes at any given time, even in this particular respect. Hence, it is possible that at one period of a person's life, he may be consciously in one stage, unconsciously in another. Only after he proceeds on such a Path of self-knowledge, does this hidden unconscious stage come to the fore. In this way, it often happens that at a later period something comes out that seems to belong in a former stage. This is also due to the fact that a certain necessary stage was not fully lived through but repressed due to outer influences and pressures. So my description is only a vague general outline. Beware of judging yourself or another according to what you see. But generally speaking, this is the cycle that humanity goes through.

17

Self-awareness must eventually lead to the state of being in awareness. Simultaneously, a new relationship to God comes into existence. ***God is experienced as being.*** I repeat, you cannot come to it if you do not first experience, in a negative way, that which is, now. Nor can you come to it by concepts you learn; philosophies and practices you observe; doctrines you follow. If you are unwilling to live through, and be in your present confusions, errors, and pains, facing and understanding them, you cannot ever be in God. Or to put it in other words: you cannot be in a state of happiness, peace, creativity without strife, if you do not face the temporary, often unpleasant reality. Only then can the great Reality be experienced. The latter will first come occasionally and in vague glimpses. But this will give you a new approach and relationship to God. It will not only transform your attitudes and concepts of God, but concepts also of yourself, or your place in life.