



# Super Wisdom

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Tom Russell

## The Curse of Complacency

Let's begin with wisdom from Søren Kierkegaard:

"It was Sunday morning in Duckland, and all the ducks dutifully came to church, waddling through the doors and down the aisle into their pews where they comfortably squatted.

"When all were well-settled, and the hymns were sung, the duck minister waddled to his pulpit, opened the Duck Bible and read: 'Ducks! You have wings, and with wings you can fly like eagles. You can soar into the sky! Use your wings!'

"It was a marvelous, elevating duck reading from the Duck Bible, and thus all the ducks quacked their assent with a hearty 'Amen!' . . . and then they plopped down from their pews and waddled home."

When knowledge is not applied it is not only useless, it can cause serious spiritual indigestion. Business coach Bob Burg addresses this with a powerful bit of information expressed in perfect simplicity—one of those great Truths so obvious it can easily be overlooked:

"Once you've found (a bit of knowledge) that will work for you, it's imperative that you apply it—and **right away**. So many people sit on newfound knowledge, waiting until the time is 'just right' to utilize it. Please don't fall into this trap. The 'right time' is **right now**. Do not delay! Apply the information—immediately!

"It's said that never reading a book will keep one just as ignorant as one who doesn't know how to read at all. In the same way, having knowledge

*and not acting on it* renders that knowledge utterly worthless."

Only the **application** of spiritual truths opens up space for wisdom, but there is a tendency for spiritual students to hide behind theories. How destructively easy it is, and all too common, to have a new philosophy, a new set of words, and think yourself superior. This is complacency.

The **application** of spiritual principles during the course of our daily life reveals a present lack of mastery, which is a healthy and necessary insight. This is hard on the ego, which is why people often prefer theoretical constructs that sound advanced. **Application** requires us to  
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## Self-Reliance Tips of the Month

- "It is easy to see how ethical deterioration happens. If your life is taken up by lying to yourself and others, attempting to control, perfectionism, denial, grabbing what you can for yourself, and refusing to let in information that would alter the addictive paradigm, then you are *spiritually bankrupt*." (Anne Schaefer—*The Addictive Organization*)
- "No germ of evil, however seemingly insignificant, should be allowed to remain lurking within, growing and undetected." (*Yogananda*)
- "It is a stage on which a world drama is being played. The quality of the performance is all that matters; not what the actors say and do, but how they say and do it." (Nisargadatta - *I am That!*)

Featured Podcast of the Month

"The World Economic Chaos - A Sane View"

<http://snipurl.com/45gеп>

### COMPLACENCY—Cont'd from page 1...

approach life with a light and bright beginner's mind, and not the cumbersome and humorless "advanced" mind.

Leave others to huddle with their books and waddle home from lectures always asking "what's next" and neglecting to explore the principles just given. It is a detrimental tendency and widespread; we cannot afford to ignore its dangers. If we're not observant, others around us claiming a wish in spiritual themes may infect us with this dreadful complacency.

Will I go against the laziness today, the comfort of theories, and actually observe myself in action with the arising thoughts and feelings? Will I detect weak and wavering words and that infantile eagerness to please, and observe them without self-condemnation? If a touch of cheerfulness passes through, will I pause and honor it, or quickly get back to "thinking?"

Finding a nugget like Bob's is an example of why it is crucial to be open to rays of light, whenever and wherever they appear. Someone may say, "I'm not in business. How does that apply to me?" Well, principles have no boundaries. They brighten every dimension of life, and when applied in one area they filter over to others.



### Vernon Howard "Your Day..."

At the start of each day an individual has his choice of two kinds of fuel. Whether his day is pleasant or not depends upon his choice. Many people actually depend upon the fuel of disturbance and irritation to carry them through. As strange as it sounds, they look forward to incidents which provide an excuse for emotional upsets. This is because negative fuels provide a false feeling of life. The person feels alive and thrilled only when expending his negative fuels. He has the feeling of going somewhere, but it is illusory progress. He is merely agitating in a fixed position, like a factory machine.

But there are positive fuels which carry us forward as swiftly as they are employed. A few of them are watchfulness, inquiry, experimentation, daring. There is one fuel with extraordinary power. It is an ardent love of self-knowledge.

*(Esoteric Encyclopedia of Eternal Knowledge)*

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<http://snipurl.com/2dpll>

### **(Out of Print Gold: Honoring great books no longer in print) "Awareness in Action" by A. D. Dhopeswarkar**

The state of awareness cannot be cultivated; it is not to be conceived as a goal, to be reached in progressive stages by some kind of discipline. It is not a state of 'becoming' but a state of 'being', a posture or attitude of mind that carries its own understanding with it, and effects a transformation, not in the course of time but immediately.

Like awareness, understanding also passes through many phases and, at every stage of awareness, helps us to transcend our ordinary, conditioned, verbalizing mind. At the earliest stage, understanding comes in the shape of a contrast

between the intense turmoil of the observed mental state and the comparatively quiet, or freedom from disturbance, of the observer. Such silence—not dead silence but best described as 'passive alertness'—is the characteristic of awareness at all stages; without it, it is not awareness at all.

Awareness shows us that our verbalizing and conditioned mind is partial and separative, seeks to 'become' different from what one 'is,' and is time-bound and possessive . . . We conclude that our conditioned, verbalizing, partial mind is thoroughly unreliable and cannot give us access to the true and the real.