

A: The courtroom exists only in your wrongly functioning mind. You may be convinced that it exists outside of you, but that is an error. You can walk out the moment you see that the courtroom doors have no locks. So walk out now. But I must add something. You will see your own liberty only when you no longer want to haul anyone else into court.

640. Q: What are we trying to do with all this?

A: We are trying to destroy something harmful. Start succeeding by seeing that the harmful always masquerades as the beneficial. Have you ever believed it necessary to pretend to understand something that really baffled you? That is harmful masquerade. Both the error and correction take place within your own mind.

641. Q: I wish my circumstances to be right.

A: When you are all right, everything else is all right.

642. Q: I am sure that each of us is his own worst enemy. May we hear of corrective action?

A: A story was written about a cruel conqueror who invaded an innocent country. The citizens were forced to huddle in front of him while he shouted at them with gleeful contempt. So intensely did he enjoy his sick screams that he failed to notice a nearby pit, into which he fell. Reckless attitudes are like that. They rob us of self-protective intelligence.

643. Q: How does spiritual knowledge help?

A: It is a first step toward enlightening experiences. You now have the knowledge that a troublesome person cannot cause trouble to your real self, to your awakened nature. Fine. Go on from there by bringing this knowledge into your daily contacts with people. One day you will *be* your knowledge, and therefore be untroubled.

644. Q: When will we have order in a disorderly world?

A: When everyone sees himself as the cause of the disorder. How many people do you know who want to see this?

645. Q: Help our studies to proceed in an orderly manner.

A: Make an aim to see and to be. You must first see in order to be. Seeing is on the level of ordinary thought, as when you observe a lack of self-resourcefulness. Being self-resourceful is the next orderly step, a result of higher consciousness which

Chapter 11

BE SECURE IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD

635. Q: Why do I fail in my plans to feel secure?

A: The best way to feel insecure is to have ideas as to what will make you feel secure. You have an idea that money or power or friendship will make you feel safe. It is the very thing that makes you unsafe, for ideas change, leaving you wondering what new idea to grab next.

636. Q: But what else is there?

A: There is something above ideas. That is all I want you to ponder for now. There is something above ideas.

637. Q: What we call good news either turns bad or we fear it may not last. Strange good news!

A: This world can no more produce good news than an oak can produce peaches. Authentic good news can come only from a totally different world, the invisible one. I am not speaking dramatically or sentimentally but factually.

638. Q: Please say more.

A: I will repeat the same good news in different words. A new world exists for you. Concealed desperation can end. There is a way out. You need not remain as you are. A new life can appear. Could you want greater good news?

639. Q: Why do we feel as if we are always on trial in a courtroom, submitting to accusation, examination, condemnation?

itself is a result of constantly throwing yourself back on yourself.

646. Q: Outwardly I may appear confident, but I am really terribly afraid of losing what I have.

A: If your earthly castle is shaking terribly you should let it shake all it wants until it collapses completely. Then you can build the Cosmic Castle which cannot be shaken.

647. Q: Last week you told us about someone who achieved inner success. How did he start?

A: He resisted these teachings until something finally dawned on him. He realized he had to choose them or would remain like the rest of the world. He would have to remain tense and confused, covering up with nervous bluff. Realizing this, his decision was easy.

648. Q: My many activities fail to cure my insecurity.

A: A desperate feeling of insecurity is not cured by running out and doing things. If this could have cured insecurity it would have done so, for this is what most people do for most of the day, unconsciously of course. Then what can be done? Instead of chasing around like scared rabbits we can stay home mentally and do something truly wise. We can see that our real nature cannot feel insecure any more than an oak can feel angry words.

649. Q: Why do many religious activities fail to create anything real?

A: The memorizing of religious or philosophical ideas does not change a man's basic nature. He merely piles words on top of a pile of weaknesses. Believing that a man with a religious code is a decent man is like believing that a monkey with a trombone is a musician.

650. Q: Sometimes I wonder how I can ever handle all my problems.

A: Some day you will wonder how they could have ever affected you.

651. Q: Please discuss the difference between saying and doing.

A: Many people say they want to change themselves. Few really mean it. Most people have no intention of giving up their false pleasures derived from making demands, from appearing important, from feeling sorry for themselves. Tell someone he

must give up such things and then see whether he really wants to change.

652. Q: What must we do to really change?

A: You must see as false what you now believe is true and see as true what you now take as false.

653. Q: In what specific ways?

A: You may now take it as true that other people must give in to your demands for more money, more love, more cooperation, more of anything else. This means you think the world revolves or should revolve around you personally. Since so many think this, society is the horror that it is. Stop thinking this.

654. Q: And what do we think is false which must be seen as true?

A: As one example, you may think it false that a higher way of life exists on this earth. It does exist, but ordinary viewpoints cannot see it any more than a fish can see the sun. Stop believing that your present life is the only life possible for you.

655. Q: Who is the devil?

A: The devil is simply the personification of everything wrong with human beings. The devil is therefore malice, hypocrisy, violence, cruelty, deception, ignorance and unconscious behavior. The devil in man never sees himself as a devil, in fact, he calls himself humble, religious, faithful and intelligent in an effort to convince himself and others that he is practically an angel on earth.

656. Q: I like the courage of these teachings. They are not afraid to see society as it actually is beneath surface appearances. Take away the false smiles and you have a rude and hostile world.

A: One of our liberties is to experience society's rudeness and hostility without permitting these unhealthy states to enter and injure us. They enter only when we are asleep at the gate.

657. Q: How can we reply to such a demanding society?

A: One day you will see something magnificent. You will see that you have nothing to say to a neurotic world. You have no need to reply to its arrogant demands and accustions. Why do you have nothing to say? Simply because you know the

truth that makes you free. Does a visitor in a zoo scream back at the howls from behind the bars?

658. Q: Help us to realize what we are trying to do.

A: You need not complicate it with tumbling words. You are trying to turn inward night into day. You know what that means. Keep it as simple as that.

659. Q: How do we see ourselves and the world wrongly?

A: Imagine yourself looking out a window to see a tree and the sky above it. Do you believe that the tree lives in a different world than the other trees you do not see? Do you think that the observed section of sky is apart from the rest of the sky? Our faulty psychic sight makes us believe we are separate from the All, when in fact we are included in the All.

660. Q: What can help us transform our minds?

A: Do you think that habitual thoughts will tolerate your attempt to replace them with higher thoughts? Not at all. They will fight and scream and deceive in every possible way to continue to enslave you. But let this insight into their hostile nature help you conquer them. Insight is strength.

661. Q: By reversing the mind we also reverse results in the exterior world?

A: The one sure way to reverse results is to reverse your inner nature, which includes thoughts, emotions, reactions, goals, and so on. Take the idea of security. People anxiously seek security by attaching themselves to human organizations. That is as useless as seeking a king's crown in a den of foxes, but people cling to the error. Reverse it by seeking your crown in your own inner kingdom.

662. Q: Strong emotions carry me away from myself.

A: A flood carried a man's home away three times. He finally had sense enough to move away from the raging river. Be aware of your psychic location. If not liking it, use these lessons to move away.

663. Q: What do you mean by a false and unnecessary emotion?

A: Any negative emotion is false and unnecessary, including painful doubt and fearful imagination. They are unnecessary because they are not based on the realities of your existence. Negativity cannot occupy the cosmic castle of your real nature.

664. Q: Please supply a method for conquering fear.

A: Always go against your fear. For instance, some people want to break out of themselves but are afraid to try. Just try. Go against your fear by listening to spiritual truths which make you afraid. I repeat, listen to the very cosmic facts which arouse fear. This is a great secret for the conquest of fear, known by conquerors.

665. Q: I am especially fond of one idea you gave us. You urged us to call the bluff on secret anguish. I like the idea of calling its bluff.

A: Anguish is like a fierce-looking but weak ghost who runs away the moment you make it clear you will not tolerate it.

666. Q: I feel anxious when I am misunderstood.

A: If a thousand people misunderstand you, but you really understand yourself, where is the problem?

667. Q: I think most people have a repressed complaint. They complain that they must perform the same boring duties every day, must cover the same tiresome ground. What is the answer?

A: Like an airplane capable of long flights, a new mind can carry you far beyond your present repetitious territory. That cosmic flight ends all complaint.

668. Q: I am attracted to the inner adventure, but need most of my time and energy for getting along in the social world.

A: Every time you dare to do something for your inner self instead of something for your social self you teach the social self how to act logically and happily in the outer world.

669. Q: You mean we will respond rightly in all circumstances?

A: To respond rightly to a circumstance we must see it wholly, without the interference of self-centered thought, like a doctor who understands both the cause and cure of an illness.

670. Q: What particular circumstance might we see wholly?

A: Be aware of how people try to make you feel guilty over living your own life, then refuse it.

671. Q: May we have a guide for avoiding traps set for us by individuals and organizations?

A: When someone tells you the reason he does something, try to find the real reason.

672. Q: A menacing world makes us anxious. Can that be corrected?

A: The escape you want from a menacing world is as close as your own mind. This does not mean to retreat from the world, but to let cosmic wisdom lift you above it. Protection from the human battle does not come by trying to win, but by living above the battlefield.

673. Q: How does this connect with handling daily events?

A: As you begin to handle daily events consciously, with higher understanding, you accomplish two things for yourself. You turn the events from enemies into friends, and you prevent negative events from happening in the first place. This is a marvelous way to live. You can live this way.

674. Q: I really don't know how I am supposed to behave in society.

A: Put it another way. You are not obligated to behave like a nitwit just because millions of others do.

675. Q: But what do I owe others?

A: Just one thing. A sane mind.

676. Q: I have a full share of problems with people. What kind of self-examination can help?

A: Ask yourself where you might be gullible toward people without realizing it.

677. Q: You say we must do first things first. In what area, for example?

A: To live under the freedom of his cosmic nature a man must first see that he is presently living under the tyranny of his stubborn likes and dislikes.

678. Q: It is shocking to hear that I am living under the tyranny of my own negative nature, but I sense it as a fact. What next?

A: Realize the enormous profit in studying and finally ending unconscious self-contradictions.

679. Q: I can see why self-study is essential.

A: Trying to understand life without a deep study of oneself is like trying to comprehend a book without reading it. In time you will be able to read yourself like a book. At that point the real motives and cunning of other people become clear to you, which is protection.

680. Q: So we must start doing things truly favorable for

ourselves?

A: Yes, but first you must discover the difference between doing something for yourself and doing something for false personality. What is the good in giving cosmic gold to a dreamer who can't value it?

681. Q: How can we discover whether or not we are impractical dreamers?

A: What is your day like? You are a dreamer to the degree that your day is filled with tension and uncertainty.

682. Q: I have just read the idea that a man *gets* what he *is*. What does that mean?

A: An imp felt mistreated by other imps with whom he associated. He felt slandered and betrayed and hurt. Meeting an angel the imp complained, "I wish only good for others, but look what they do to me." The angel sighed, "You imps never learn. When associating with evil imps you are simply associating with your own nature. What on earth do you expect?"

683. Q: A member of this class helped me with a casual remark. She said that we are in danger only from ourselves. May we have your ideas on this?

A: A man is endangered only by his own delusions which he has carefully concealed from himself. He can be saved only by his own real virtues which are hidden from view by the walls of delusion. We are safe only on the other side of the wall. Will you climb it?

684. Q: We are defeated by our lack of self-knowledge. I never saw it that way before.

A: Take the demand of wanting our own way. We all want our own way but don't want the consequences. That is no different than demanding a cup of salty sea water and then demanding that it taste like fresh water. See how self-knowledge can end disastrous consequences?

685. Q: Why is it wrong to accept authority in spiritual matters?

A: How do you know whether or not the authority really knows what he is talking about? Maybe your own insecurity has frantically erected a false idol. Also, when accepting something from authority you leave your own intelligence out of it. Is that intelligent? People find it very easy to abandon an authority when seeing a personal advantage in doing so.

686. Q: Then how can we relate to a real teacher?

A: At a certain point in your own inner development you will know whether or not another person speaks the truth. At this point it is safe and helpful to listen to him.

687. Q: Please explain the difference between a conscious man and a man still in delusion.

A: The difference between the spiritually awakened man and the unenlightened man is this: The unawakened man denies the existence of psychic tigers and foxes within himself. Outwardly he may appear humble and innocent, but he is still part of the psychic jungle. The awakened man has bravely entered the self-jungle and has conquered the wild beasts. You can see why the conscious man is fearless, while the unawakened man is still afraid.

688. Q: Then an awakened man is free from society while living in the midst of it?

A: Society has as much to give to an awakened man as a single word has to give to a dictionary.

689. Q: The desire for social success has twisted us out of psychic shape. How can we relax into normality?

A: Cosmic Consciousness does not see any difference between a social success and a nobody. Only human carelessness thinks it sees a difference. Uplift your mind to where you no longer see a difference, for then you will have a new kind of success unknown by senseless society.

690. Q: Why are delusions so powerfully persistent?

A: When a frantic man believes that his psychic security requires two and two to add up to five, the greatest mathematician on earth will be unable to convince him otherwise.

691. Q: Why are we so tyrannized by anxiety?

A: Because anxious thoughts trick us into believing they are necessary. They are about as necessary as rocks on the dinner table. As an example, it is unnecessary to anxiously think that happiness depends upon the loyalty of friends.

692. Q: How does happiness connect with viewpoints?

A: In Brazil there is a stream with a curious feature. It appears to be running uphill—but only when viewed from a certain spot. Close inspection shows it to be running normally downhill. When life is seen from the viewpoint of worldly success we seem to ascend in happiness. It is a deceptive

viewpoint. Happiness is a state in which life is seen as it is in reality.

693. Q: This helps me understand what life is all about.

A: You are engaged in the pleasant task of exchanging pebbles for pearls.

694. Q: I am afraid we live in a world of fear.

A: People go through life pleading, "Please don't scare me." You must do much better. You must proceed differently. You must state to a teacher of truth, "Go ahead and scare me if necessary, for I will use it to awaken from the nightmare."

695. Q: By intelligently using a negative condition we can end it. That is a fascinating idea.

A: It proves that real intelligence conquers all.

FOLLOW THESE USEFUL INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Good news comes only from the cosmic world.
- b. With self-insight you can walk away from anxiety.
- c. The harmful often disguises itself as the good.
- d. Cosmic wisdom dares to see things as they are.
- e. Ignore unhealthy demands from other people.
- f. Your simple goal is to turn night into day.
- g. If not liking your psychic location, move away!
- h. Learn to call the bluff on suppressed anguish.
- i. You are now doing favorable things for yourself.
- j. A conscious individual is bold and fearless.