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Reflections f^oAwakening

KEVIN EDWARDS

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Special thanks to my parents, Mike and Lenore,
Dick De Ranitz, and Zahra Ali



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To all who brought me closer to Truth

*More important than what is written here
is what is not written.*

*More important than the words here
is the silence from which they came.*

*More important than the letters here
is the space between each letter.*

*I would have left each page empty,
but you wouldn't have understood.*


INTRODUCTION

The following is a testimony to Truth, which, in essence, is both unknown and unknowable. For this reason, it is best expressed as silence, poetry or paradox.

As you read on, keep in mind that these words were written not to instruct, but to awaken, not to stimulate, but to silence. It is not important that you understand them or agree with them. The Reality to which they point cannot be contained by language or any concept. It is beyond the mind.

A far better approach to this book than to study it is to savor it, to taste it, to be touched by it, to sense the truth of it. In this endeavor, intuition will bring you farther than intellect. Relaxing will take you deeper than conceptualizing.

BECOMING

 ANY EFFORT MADE at becoming more loving or more enlightened is unnecessary and a waste of time. In the infinite space that you are, there is inexhaustible light and love as well. Any effort to try to become it is to deny it.

But if you know it, if you are not just intellectually acquainted with this vastness, this boundless love, this peace that surpasses understanding, then, love, which is the highest wisdom, may express through you. This is what is meant by expressing Godliness or Self.

If you have doubts, ponder this: What effort must you make to be yourself? The truth is, you are always yourself. In fact, we differ not in what we are but in how we embody what we are. We are all one indefinable essence. We are not individual gods (egos) but one reality, a unity of formlessness and form.

To have in your possession the “pearl of great price” is to be aware of this truth. Awareness of what we are, awareness of our true identity, naturally leads to the expression and the embodiment of that identity.

Consider a flower. Does the flower make effort? Does the flower say to itself, “I must work to become a better flower with a sweeter fragrance?” Does it say, “I will give my fragrance to some but not to all?” No. It is a flower; as a consequence, it gives its fragrance.

You are also a flower. Flowering, for you, is expressing the goodness that is you. Your fragrance is the expression of God.

Talk of becoming more peaceful, more loving, more joyful, more integrated, is misleading. You are now: pure Being, infinite Space, boundless Spirit, eternal Awareness. As often as

this is remembered, it is embodied. But forgotten, the fragrance simply won't come.

If Being is to find embodiment in you now, all efforts at becoming must cease. If the Eternal is to be expressed by you now, the necessity for time must be dropped. Only when you have shed becoming and have collapsed time, can you have what is here now.

Any effort to become more loving or more enlightened should, instead, be put into inquiry and understanding. Without inquiry there can be no Self-knowing, and without understanding there can be no love. Self-knowing comes from inquiry. Love comes from understanding, and understanding comes from awareness without point of view.



LIBERATION

👁️ SELF-REALIZATION, or liberation, is what it is because it is discontinuous with the past. In fact, it is liberation from the past, from the human condition and all remembrance of who you were until that moment. This is why spiritual teachers have talked about it as a death as well as a new life. It is the death and loss of everything you know, of all your possessions, all your knowledge, and all your identities.

All archives and records of the past are burned up in a single moment in the flame of pure awareness. Nothing is spared; nothing that is not entirely of the present can survive.

Therefore, anyone who wishes to possess this unknown treasure of the Self must be willing to be nobody. If you are willing to be nobody, if you are willing to be nothing, this Emptiness will emerge as a new identity; your very Self will surface. Then, it is up to you to remain present and not revisit the past.



BELIEVING LESS

👁️ GOD IS REVEALED by believing less in your thoughts and more in the space between. The reason for this is that your concepts, your ideas, and thoughts are a closed system. They begin and end with you. They can imagine heaven but cannot give it to you. They stand between you and the Unknown, between you and the Infinite.

Thinking is the sole barrier between you and Reality. All thought is conditioned, but space is entirely free. In space there is no confinement whatsoever. You are out of the prison; you have transcended. You simply look, without evaluating, without judgment.

Judgments are always wrong. To cling to them, as though they were an authority, prevents the possibility of you ever seeing through yourself. To cling to space is to cling to innocence.

There is so much peace, so much love, so much purity in space. When this is experienced, God, Reality, Truth, cannot be doubted.

In reality, Emptiness is Fullness, and Nothing is Everything. In it is every good gift, every blessing. You are not there to disturb the ongoing benediction.



TRUE HUMILITY

👁️ THE “I” OF THE ENLIGHTENED is not that of ego. This can be said because one who is self-realized, or more accurately, one who has realized the Self, no longer identifies with what he was previously. His self-reference is no longer his likes and dislikes, his opinions and prejudices, his attitudes and past conditioning.

He no longer identifies himself as a personality, a body, a complex mind, or anything that comes from it. He identifies with something else, something that doesn't come and go. He understands, intuitively, that whatever comes and goes is not who he is. Who he is, he must be always.

The awakened lives from this perspective. He can say “I am God” and not be an egotist. He can say “There is only God” and not be mad. He knows everything arises out of Nothing, and he knows himself as That.

When the mystic makes a statement like “I am God,” this, inevitably, is misunderstood because the self-reference of the one who hears it is almost always the ego. What he is really saying is closer to “I am not; only God is!” This is not egotism. It is humility.



THERE I AM

👁️ THE EXPERIENCE OF awakening is a wonderfully clear experience in which all the psychic fog and emotional clouds vanish and you are left with just Being. You say to yourself, “Ah, there I Am. There I Am in all my completeness; There I Am without fragmentation; There I Am without conflict or inner division.”

In that moment, everything becomes vibrantly clear and beautifully alive. All previous troubles, all conundrums you had to solve, everything you had to repair, falls away as you relax into an overwhelming sense of your own completeness.

It’s as if you were replaced rather than repaired: the neurotic nature replaced by the natural state.

In this effortless ascent, there is the rising above every limited perspective and every self-limiting belief. You are entirely without suffering, without compulsive thought, without sweeping emotion, and without you.

