

ALMOST
HOME

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A Correspondence with
a Spiritual Teacher

Special thanks to my parents, Mike and Lenore,
and to Angie Johnston.

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FORWARD

At the time I was introduced to Prakash, I was preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation within the Catholic Church. What was to be a journey into symbolism and ritual became even more adventurous when Prakash began to guide me. In time, I would no longer rely on second-hand knowledge but would come to know a truth that would forever set me free.

Prior to last year, I encountered many challenges, Among them: cancer, depression, and a failing marriage. Like many, I was ill prepared and confronted these afflictions and countless others with beliefs, mere spiritual band-aids that were no match for the deep angst that I encountered almost daily. I had reached a point where belief was not enough to sustain me.

The spiritual band-aids served their purpose, but Prakash was pointing the way to the Unknown. It was time to remove the band-aids. With sincere compassion, he effortlessly began awakening me to other resources.

In just a short while, wounds were exposed and transformed through simple awareness. This experience, which went on for almost a year, was deeply purging, like walking through fire. Since then, Prakash has helped me in so many ways. I count myself fortunate to have corresponded with him at this particular crossroad.

The following pages contain many of our correspondences. It is my hope that through sharing bits and pieces of my experience with Prakash, something of the flame of my awakening may be transmitted and, perhaps, spark your own.

In love and gratitude,

Angie

COMING
HOME

Dear Angie,

I received your letter and am privileged to accompany you on your journey into freedom. This is what true spirituality is about, knowing yourself as Freedom.

The confusing part is that you are That already. Already, you are enlightened. Already, you are perfect. Already, you are eternal, Already, you are free. As Christ says, “Whoever believes has Eternal Life.”

As we journey together, let all your questions, confusions and desires come forth. Since we are discovering a new language, a new way of being, there will be more than a few. Be patient and don't try to figure it out. Rather, let the Truth within you recognize Itself.

Know that I am not here to teach you or convince you of anything your deeper Self doesn't already know. It is said that the eye is the lamp of the body. If the eye is single, the whole body will be filled with light.

The task that lies ahead of us, is making the “I” single. Write as often as you like, and ask the Spirit to guide you. Make it a joy and a beautiful adventure.

Blessings and Bliss,

Prakash

Dear Prakash,

Thank you for your response. I am a little confused as to how this process works. Am I to ask you about anything that I want enlightenment on, and you will direct my way of thinking to have the answer within myself?

There is something that comes to mind that I find myself struggling with. I find that, very often, I fall into despair and feel abandoned even by God himself. I know that He says He is with us always, but that does not comfort me. What am I missing?

Your sister in Christ,

Angie

Dearest Angie,

As to how the process works, I wouldn't be so arrogant to say. In fact, I wouldn't even call it a process. A process is completed in time. Self realization, Enlightenment, and Freedom, are outside of time. They simply are. God is. You are. There is no process. No distance need be overcome. As to how quickly one sees it, everyone is different. The Spirit blows as it wills.

But let me begin by saying that there is a vast difference between believing and knowing. Believing that God never abandons us and knowing it are two very different things. But how is one to know? To paraphrase St. John of the Cross, you can know with a knowing beyond all knowing and unknowing.

Seeking God or finding him is always a catch twenty-two. To first seek God we have to have an idea of what we are seeking. And yet, if we know exactly what it is we are seeking, we will not find it. We will find only our pre-conceived idea.

So stop expecting anything. Don't expect God in your usual ways, the ways you have in the past. The past is past. What does it have to do with now? Instead, look intently at what is here now.

The unexpected is available for all who drop their expectations. The Unknown is here for all who drop their knowledge. Faith can be shaken. Drop belief and you drop doubt also.

It is a recipe for discontentment to try to materialize something that isn't here now. Drop all of this, and go deep into what is here. Tell me, what do you find?

Blessings and Bliss,

Prakash

Dear Prakash,

I have been thinking about your response to one of my deepest issues. Your statement about knowing and believing being two different things made me contemplate experiences in my past. For Example, I heard a voice speak to me just after high school. The voice said, “redeem thyself.” I heard it audibly, not as a thought in my head.

Maybe that’s what I am expecting. I want to know if I have redeemed myself. I recall the words I used to describe this experience to others. They were, “I BELIEVE I heard God speak to me. So where does knowing fit in? I haven’t figured that out yet. I do see a pattern. In the past, believing is there much more than knowing.

Please be patient with me as I work through your amazing talent. Most times, I feel like things are going way over my head. If you would speak to me as you would a little child, I’d be ever so grateful. And pray for me that I drop any defenses that I am holding onto.

Your sister in Christ,

Angie

Dear Angie,

Patience is needed neither by you nor by me. Everything you seek is already here. The Kingdom is here! What does that mean? Here, understanding is called for, not understanding of kingdoms, celestial palaces, or some afterlife, but of the deeper meaning of scriptural texts, the deeper meaning of spiritual teachings.

The Kingdom is here. What can be missing? In the gospel of John, we find a curious phrase. “Of His fullness we have all received grace upon grace.” What can be lacking?

If what I say goes over your head, don't be discouraged. Very few have realized what you will realize through this correspondence. Not because it is difficult, but because it is so simple, so ordinary. It is in looking for the extraordinary that we miss it. “Narrow is the path that leads to life and those who find it are few.”

This is not discouraging because, already, you have the desire within you “to know”. And it is promised you, “that you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” It is promised that all who ask receive. All who seek find, and for all who knock the door is open.