

Article 134: About Ohi-enlightenment - part 3

If you are a seeker or teacher of enlightenment, do not listen to those who declare that a teacher who has people gather around him ...and even, to a certain degree, has people relying upon him or turning some personal power over to him, or if the situation is one in which some degree of inflation or self-importance is occurring, this is dangerous ...and both the seeker and the teacher must leave, ...for this is not true. Genuine self-pride and confidence is frequently interpreted and judged as “ego”. Instead of running, listen carefully and insightfully to what is being said, ...if it is about self-empowerment and pride in self, ...listen to more. If, however, what is said empowers God, the teacher, others, rituals, dogma, or established beliefs and groups, ...or blames others or ego, negates self-pride, sets standards you *must follow*, speaks against self-confidence, or requires you to determine right from wrong, then run as fast as you can; ...after all, do you want enlightenment that empowers you ...which you are proud of, which offers joyful self-confidence, and which ends your judgments and other misbeliefs, ...or do you want enlightenment that empowers God, destroys your self (I, ego), does not offer you anything to be proud of, sets standards you must live, does not support self-confidence, and continues your judgments? Consider this carefully and wisely, for most teachings, and your beliefs and actions today, are based upon and deceptively conceal the underlying belief that to have the lifeseff and enlightened awareness you desire, you must surrender yourself “to a greater power” and forsake your desires. Must you forsake any desire or aspect of yourself to be unconditionally loving? ...to be lovingly responsive?

If you are seeking enlightenment, you get to determine the enlightened awareness and expressions you will accept and follow. Any enlightenment that destroys the I of yourself and promises eternal peace and awareness without the self of yourself has nothing to offer you. Every step to true enlightenment is an *add to yourself* ...not a loss or surrender of anything, ...especially not your previous I or self. The universe wants your uniqueness ...and ardently builds and protects that, ...for your uniqueness is the universe’s uniqueness. Understand your ego, do not attempt to destroy your ego. For many centuries, what has been put forward as enlightenment ...and is offered as enlightenment today, even by those who should know better, is merely the destruction or negation of self, ...is that what you are seeking? Of course, that is one way to end your problems and suffering, ...isn’t it? However, since life is truly everlasting, all such actions and practices, masquerading as enlightenment, actually continue and multiply your problems, burdens, afflictions, suffering, and lack of unconditional love.

If you believe that all things are God ...or that God created *all things* in which to reside or be part of, ...do you, using your enlightened awareness, really believe that God now wants you to lessen or destroy

your self//ego in any way? God is self! ...would you seek, in any way, to lessen or destroy God? Is that enlightenment? Is that the enlightenment you want?

By understanding that every individual, thing, event, condition, situation, and circumstance reveals the self and life you are living, which is **true self-awareness**, then, though your judgments remain fully formed and available at all times, since they offer you nothing, you will not use them. Only this is enlightenment. God does not want the lessening or destruction of any true part of your self, for that diminishes both you and God.

In the past, if a student declared excitedly to his teacher, "Oh, Master, I have arrived," in this state of excitement, the teacher would sadly reject that the student had arrived at enlightenment ...and would send him away. If later the student returned with an aura of peace, calmness, and contentment ...and announced quietly that "*it* has arrived", then he would be welcomed and let in. This story reveals that only when a student's identity within the world had disappeared would he be acknowledged and embraced as enlightened, ...is that what you want? All true enlightenment is **self-awareness**.

Well, that was the old way ...following ancient beliefs and customs. Today we want the student to actively carry and live and teach his/her enlightened understandings in the midst of a judging world, for without judgments and struggling to "cause" what you desire, life is entirely different and lived in extraordinary ways without the normal fears and anxieties, problems and burdens, uncertainties, and afflictions, ...and none of these are carried into the next life ...or the next. And instead of being "in the moment" as a way to avoid the self-imposed and continued difficulties and illnesses, we expect all enlightened individuals to fully be and live themselves instead of judging and reacting ...and to live a fine string of self-evidencing moments. By self-evidencing, your self remains to carry your enlightenment but is never entangled in or trapped by judgments ...and is certainly never denied or avoided as traditional forms of false-enlightenment would have it be. True enlightenment is about being fully, self-evidencingly involved.

After years of insightful study and self-evaluation, a man announced to his friends, "I finally know the secret! I'm enlightened ...and in touch with myself and the life I truly desire."

A close friend interrupted him and asked, "What's the secret? What have you discovered?"

"I've discovered that I am one with the universe," the man answered excitedly.

His friend looked perplexed at such an answer ...and asked solemnly, "You mean I'm not?"