

## Article 138: Response to Enlightenment Articles

One of the responses we received about the latest Articles was: “Hi Roger, in the Theravada Buddhist tradition, enlightenment merely means contentment or a state of no craving for something that will not bring true happiness.”

Our response was: Don’t disagree that there are as many different traditional meanings of enlightenment as there are different forms or schools of Buddhism, but, in my opinion, all are founded on, in one form or another, “getting rid of” the craving, desire, pleasure, etc. ...or getting rid of the “craving, desiring, pleasuring self”~aka ego~but, in every case, all of these beliefs and actions are essentially built upon the belief that good and evil exist ...and contentment (or other) depends upon doing some “right, good, better, best” thing, living in a particular way, or not living in some other way, all of which keeps you trapped in judgments and “destroys” free will.

The fundamental belief that good/evil, right/wrong, not-craving/craving, or even contentment/not-contentment exist in the universe is “incorrect”, for all of these and similar “opposings” are only “not-thing-constructs” of language ...and do not exist in the universe. You cannot negate~no craving~yourself to happiness! Forever Living life is living your fulfillment as you truly desire ...and has nothing whatsoever to do with avoiding or negating ...which maintains the judgments. For instance, how can you achieve “a state of no craving for something that will not bring true happiness” (your words) without “trying, judging, struggling, rejecting, negating” (my words)? Then, to rescue this problem, teachers suggest that you become an “observer”, which did not work for Krishnamurti ...and it won’t work for you. Do you want to become an observer in your own life? Also, you are completely trapped by causing, for “bring true happiness” is causing~which seductively destroys free will~but nothing in life is now or ever has been caused!

You are seducing yourself with language! Thanks for writing.

If you have an opinion, or would like to jump into the fray, send us a letter before this series ends next week and we’ll try to answer any questions or objections before we move on.