

## Article 233: An Inside View of Problems and Issues

**Let's assume** you are offered a personal gain as a reward for following a mildly painful action ...and even greater gains each time this action is repeated and increased, and you know that there will eventually be a degree of pain or loss from this action which no amount of gain would possibly induce you to continue in these ways, ...would you begin? Since you always choose to serve yourself ...and since this increase in pain is undetectable from the previous levels of pain, ...would you continue these actions? Well, since there is no particular point in these actions at which it is reasonable or rational for you to change ...and stop these self-serving activities, you will always find it advantageous to continue these actions and accept the next degree of pain for increased gain, ...and then the next ...and the next. This is a view of your judgments ...and not living as you truly desire.

**Let's assume** that at the beginning of this life you declared, or others told you, that you will make mistakes. If this declaration is true, there will constantly be, what you believe are, errors in your life; otherwise the original declaration was false. And though it seems so self-knowing and wise to declare that you will make mistakes, maybe this declaration alone, whether true or false, creates the problem ...and is itself your greatest mistake.

If events in life follow casual laws or determined patterns, then it is possible to predict whether or not you will make mistakes ...and it is not a mistake to know yourself in this way, for in being prepared, you can be careful and not make mistakes, but, if you do this, then the original knowing is itself a mistake you always carry with you, ...and if you do not change, but let events continue to provide additional gains, then the original true-knowing being of no value, is a mistake that can lead you to make even more harmful mistakes. If you believe that acknowledging mistakes will protect you ...and will protect you because only you have faith and believe it will, you cannot believe that such an acknowledgement will protect you only because you believe it will. Is it wise to declare that you will take responsibility for your actions?

**Let's assume** you want to live an enrichingly correct, mistake-free life until 80 years of age. If you reason that there are an infinite number of mistakes you are likely to make ...which will impede your progress and thwart your enriching life, you will have a difficult time, for even if you make it to the age of 60, mistakes are certain to rise to block further progress, and, on second thought, you will find mistakes at age 40 or 30 or 20 ...and

this awareness will continue to a younger and younger age ...until you cannot even begin, because, whatever your age, mistakes will arise to stop your progress, ...therefore, you will probably reason, the only option available is not begin living your enriching, mistake-free life, for then mistakes won't arise to block you, ...but, of course, you won't have the life you desire either. Does this sound like your religion? It seems that your goal of an enriching life will force you not to begin, ...ohh, what to do? What would you advise yourself to do?

**Let's assume this about mistakes.** If you do not have free will ...you cannot make a mistake, and if you do have free will, nothing is or ever can be a mistake. In either situation, you cannot be properly praised or criticized ...or held responsible for what you cannot be held responsible for. All judgments destroy free will.

**Let's assume** that, although it may be true that all diseases are self-created and self-inflicted ...and also true that you don't believe they are, it is false to declare that all diseases are self-created and self-inflicted ...but I don't believe it, for if you believe that they are self-created then you believe that ...and cannot disbelieve it, ...and if you do not believe they are self-created ...then you cannot, as a belief or truth, declare that all illnesses are self-created. Ohh, you can say these things, but doing so says nothing truthful about your beliefs, it confuses you, and it creates an unseen, unresolvable problem, ...don't you see this? Are you willing to take a stand against most of your falsely-created beliefs by living as you truly desire? ...or will you continue the little, painful gains of having someone or something to blame for your own misbeliefs and mistakes ...and your problems and illnesses ...and continue them? Are you lying to yourself about your beliefs?

[Get outside of yourself!](#)

**Let's assume** that, at some point in your life's journey, you arrive at a fork in the road, which is jealously guarded by the **Lord of Judgments** ...and you beg to be allowed to continue along your old ways ...or begin traveling the road of living as you truly desire. In response, the Lord of Judgments declares, "If your next utterance is true, I shall let you pass, but if it is false I shall inflict additional pain and suffering upon you." Faced with this dilemma, what would you say? Would you plead to be spared ...and promise to live aright? ...or promise to live as the Lord desired of you? Would you speak of the good and righteous things you have done in your life? Would you confess your errors and sins? ...and certainly your known mistakes? ...and unknown errors just to be certain? Would you

praise the Lord? ...or weep about the troubles you had struggled with and endured? Or would you surrender to the Lord's mercy and forgiveness? Would you declare that your suffering is self-created and self-inflicted ...and promise to teach others how not to do these things? What would you say and do?

Well, you could reply, "Lord, you are going to inflict additional misery and distress upon me because I am not living as I truly desire!"

A strange answer, isn't it? But, if the Lord does not add to your suffering, then you have spoken falsely ...but your afflictions are not continued; ...and if the Lord continues your misery, then you have spoken truthfully ...and you cannot be inflicted with additional pain and grief ...and must be allowed to pass to continue "life as usual" ...or take the road to living as you truly desire. In either situation, you are freed of your misery. This is not acceptance, faith healing, a passive resignation to fate or to the Lord's will, yet, as you can see, this alone enables you to pass on and continue "life as usual" or follow the road of "life as you truly desire" without suffering. Acknowledging your sins and mistakes is to no avail ...and justifying your beliefs and actions will never serve you ...or release you.

You may feel you can appease the Lord by sincerely promising to do something ...but if you really know you have no intention of carrying it out, since it will then be false and pointless, you will not even be able to form the intention to make the *sincere* promise.

Will you speak clearly to the Lord, end your misery and afflictions, and live as you truly desire? ...or will you promise almost anything, including living as you truly desire, and thus speak falsely ...and continue your pain and suffering? Think carefully before you answer, because this is the dilemma you have every day when facing your dichotomy-language and judgments.

Which road will you travel?