

AFTER ENLIGHTENMENT, WHAT?

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AFTER ENLIGHTENMENT, WHAT?

by Tara

Milk spilled from its bottle discovers freedom and the real world, but returned to its bottle will find itself conforming to its former shape.

Just because you return to the world, does not mean you must return to its paradigms or play in all its games. You do so at considerable risk.

**See Archives for previous entrees of this book, and the book; Enlightenment.*

Aug 29, 2010 - Y2 - Day 21

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A thought of the day in passing . . .

*The sages of India had a tradition for life after Enlightenment. It was the life of the sadhu.**

In such case, one had no home; rather, one roamed the country, never staying in a place more than three days. This was good for the people, but also for the protection of the sadhu.

There is an oft repeated story in the Indian folklore regarding the sadhu's vulnerability to 'taking on' the dispositions of the company he kept and places inhabited. It goes somewhat like this: A holy man on the road found he needed a place to spend the night. So he went up to the first house come to and requested it. Though but a small cottage, it was the only one nearby, the village far distant and he had walked the full day from his last stop. As is the Indian tradition, he was given a place to pass the night; and being very tired he fell right to sleep. But, all through the night the holy man was plagued by an intense desire to rob the old couple who lived there; and, of course, he was horrified and perplexed at this terrible state of mind. But, come morning, he just thanked the couple and hurriedly left. Continuing on towards the distant village, he happened to overhear some other travelers, coming from the opposite direction loudly exclaiming over a thief who had been through the area robbing the houses he stayed in. Judging from the distances involved, the saint realized he would have had to have stopped at the very same old couple's cottage he had; but finding little there worth taking, he would have certainly continued on, only to rob the next village on the night following.

Of course in the west we do things differently; most of the Enlightened, to whatever degree, have become teachers and/or simply returned to a life in the world of duality and desire. But we have had to create our own ways, each of us, and having few if any examples to follow, decide how, and to what extent, we will live what we now know.

*Sadhu - In the Hindu tradition; an ascetic, wandering holy man observing a life of renunciation, prayer and meditation.

*See Archives for all past postings.

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