

Realization vs. Booklearning

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San Diego, 1-29-56

Subject this morning: "Realization vs. Booklearning," "Realization vs. Booklearning."

Booklearning, or knowledge, or such knowledge, means: "conception, which comes through outward agencies, outward faculties, faculties of sensation, mind, and intellect." And then we apply our reason and inference. And that knowledge, we can call booklearning. While Realization, is that which comes, that perception which comes, through intuitive perception, or through Realization by Intuition. Not by outward faculties of sensation, mind, intellect; but by the inherent Power of the Soul itself – Intuition.

And so, you can see there's a vast difference between booklearning and Realization. Let us take for instance, in living. There are many misconceptions of life which would pass away if we knew life through intuition rather than through outward means of senses, mind, and intellect. You see, the paradoxes of life, you cannot reconcile them through theoretical knowledge. But, when through intuition you perceive the underlying, One Eternal life, or Light of God, then you can understand. And so, it is very important that we realize the difference between booklearning and Realization. It is more important that we apply that knowledge, and that we practice those methods and techniques which give us the Power of Intuition, that we may realize the eternal truths of life.

Let us take first, the conception of God through booklearning. You can read in the scriptures; all the scriptures say the same thing – God is all; God has created all things; from His One Eternal Substance all things have come; you can know those things. Also, you can read God is Light; from the One Eternal Light all things have come. From the Word all things have come, because the Word is God. "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God¹." One aspect of the Holy Vibration, or the Word, is Light. And so, you can read in the scriptures, "God is Light," and from His One Eternal All-pervading Light, all things have come.

¹ St. John 1:1

And then, you can also read, that God is perceivable, or conceivable, as the Holy Vibration, which gives off a sound, the Great Cosmic Sound. You can have a conception of God by reading about that Cosmic Sound and knowing that it is spoken of in the various scriptures as “the sound of the trumpet²,” “the voice of many waters³,” “the Great Cosmic Sound⁴,” which is the Holy Vibration, the Word, and from that all things have been vibrated. We can know that, in theory, by reading about it. We can memorize it, and when someone asks you, “Do you know the Cosmic Sound?” “Yes, it is the sound of many waters.” “It is the trumpet sound, spoken of in all the scriptures.” You have a conception of God as sound. And then, you can go a little further and you can read, “God is Bliss.” Jesus said, attain that peace which passeth all understanding⁵. Yes, that is what God is. That’s your conception of God.

But, we can take the lives of the saints, and they speak of God in many ways. Swami Ram said, you know, “Bliss, like a river, flows through me.” And you can read in our Bible the words of Jesus as I have just said, “That peace which passeth all understanding.” And Lord Shankara, of the Hindu philosophy, says in his conception of God, “I am He, I am He, Blessed Spirit I am He.” And so, you can have all these conceptions. You can know them in theory, and someone says, you know, Lord Shankara knew God. “Yes,” he said, ‘I am He, I am He, Blessed Spirit, I am He.’”

And so, you have a wonderful conception of God, but do you really know God? That’s knowing God through booklearning, through theory. Do you really know God? But when, when you can go within, and you can through meditation, and following the techniques of one who knew God, when you can do that, and you can go within, and contact the Light of God; then you can say, “Infinite Father, from Thy One Light, I have come. Thou art Light and Love.” That’s knowing God; that’s perceiving God through actual perception – by Intuition. That’s tasting God; not just talking about it.

And you can also go within, if you practice the techniques given by one who knew God, as our Master. You cannot only talk about the Great Cosmic Sound, spoken of as “the voice of many waters,” or “the trumpet sound,” but you can go within, through meditation, and you can hear the Presence of God as the Cosmic

² Psalm 150:3 (One of many, many references)

³ Revelation 19:6 (One of many, many references)

⁴ *Brahma Sutras: A treatise by Vyasa on Vedanta philosophy in the form of aphorisms. Also called the Vedanta Sutras or Vedanta Darshana.*

⁵ Philippians 4:7

Sound. That's Realization, that's knowing God through actual being one with Him, through the Power of Intuition within you. And finally, by following the path of one, as our Master, who was one with the Bliss of God, you can feel within you the Great Bliss of God.

Do you see the difference? Now, if you know God, perceive God through actual being one with Him, or tasting Him through the Power of Intuition within you, then you can feel, as Jesus said, the peace of the Infinite Father. And Swami Ram said, "Peace, like a river, flows through me." And Lord Shankara said, "I am He, I am He, Blessed Spirit I am He." You can actually know that. That's Realization; that's not booklearning. That's actually, that's actually being one with God, by tasting Him, and merging in Him. And so, you can see, there is a vast difference between booklearning and actual perception of God.

And so, knowledge through booklearning is informative. It is scholarship. It is the use of mind, intellect, sensation, mind, intellect, and inference, and reason to gather together perhaps, a vast amount of facts, which we call "booklearning," or "ordinary knowledge." While, on the other hand, perception through the Power of Intuition is vital. It is active. There you become one with the subject; not just talking about it as a fact. You become one with it. You merge in it. And so, you can see, Realization is very deep and satisfying, while booklearning is very superficial. There's quite a difference between booklearning and actual Realization.

Of course, this applies to all walks of life – all subjects. But, I think we are interested especially in religion. Booklearning and religion; actual perception of religion is quite different than theoretical knowledge about the scriptures and religion. It is good. But until you taste those truths within you, and actually become one with God – which is in you, who is in you – you will not know God through Realization. But booklearning will not satisfy you. Booklearning is superficial. How can it be anything but superficial when it depends upon the testimony of the senses, the mind, and the intellect, plus your inference and reason? You can see it cannot help but being superficial. While, Intuition is the Power of the Soul in you, whereby you actually taste, and become one with God.

The Master used to give the illustration, you know, about sugar. I can tell you all about sugar. You can tell me all about sugar. You can describe it: what it looks like; all its different forms; crystallization; and everything. And when you got through, you got a vast amount of facts whereby sugar is this; sugar is that; sugar is this; sugar is that. But, when through Intuition you taste the sugar, then you

know sugar. So it is with conception of God. We have to taste Him. We have to be one with Him. Then we will know.

I had a friend, who was a proofreader for a paper, and he acquired a terrific amount of ordinary knowledge – booklearning. So, he'd come to my office and he'd begin to expound all the things he knew. "Well, did you hear about this – did you hear about that?" "No, no, I didn't know all those things." Finally I waited until he got through, I said, "Did you ever hear about the Spiritual Eye?" "Spiritual Eye, what's that?" There's the difference. His was booklearning. But, by the Grace of God, and following the Master, I had found out through actual perception, of the Intuition of my Soul, and which each and every one of us has, that the Spiritual Eye is real, and that it can be seen, and perceived, and that you can enter into it. And so, that's actual Realization of a subject, which is much better than just booklearning.

Now, going on just a little bit; I had this, this paradox of booklearning and Realization brought to my attention – especially in, in college when I was preparing for my profession⁶. And I remember, distinctly, of studying the various subjects, which we had to take up, especially, anatomy, and physiology, and those different subjects. And I remember learning all about the skin, and the muscles, and the bones, and the different layers of the skin. I think there was three, and all this, and I could repeat that backwards, and all about it. But, when it came to actual dissection of the body, of the cadavers, and opening up those different tissues – opening the skull, and the chest, and seeing all those internal organs, and the skin, and the bones – it was entirely different. Why? Because, there I actually, so to speak, touched those things, became one with them. There's a vast difference between booklearning theory, and actual Realization. Of course, that illustration is not exact, because Intuition is a little different. But it gives you an idea between ordinary, superficial booklearning, and actual Realization through the Power of the Soul itself.

And then, another thing which impressed me more than just the booklearning of the theory of my profession, was actual, the learning of the methods, and the procedures, or the actual operations and so forth, which were quite different. And so, they taught us how to do this, and how to do that, and the theory was perfect. But, when it came to performing those operations, and I had my hand, and the nurse's hand, and a mirror, and several other saliva ejectors, and

⁶ Doctor Lewis was a D.M.D.

aspirators in there all at once; it was entirely different – the actual operation – from the theory, which I had learned.

And so it is, in religious things. You will find the actual Realization, through the Power of Intuition within you of deep, Spiritual truths, is entirely different from the theory – from the conception which you derive from theory – entirely different.

Speaking about the difference between theory and practice in the actual operations of a profession; there was a little boy in our infirmary, a little wee fellow. I used to think later in life, you have to get a stool to stand on to get up to work. He was a little fellow. I went back and taught two years in infirmary. And so, I came, he called me over one time. He said, come here and look at this, this case. And he had, he had drawn a good one. You never saw such a, a place to work in – had been neglected, and filth was there, and the tissue was broken down, and it was a mess. So he came over, and I looked in. Just about, I was trying to make up my mind what to do, he says, "Doctor," he says, "Shall we operate or blast?" Well, it was, it was cute; and that, as I remember, there was quite a difference between theory, and actual operation, of that particular case.

And so it is with life. Things seem so rosy. When you read about life when you're young, and the romance comes in, and you read this wonderful book, and everything seems rosy, until later, through Realization, you understand the realities of life, which are entirely different. And so, now let us go on with our discussion this morning, about booklearning, and actual Realization. And remember, in Spiritual things, especially things of God, it is entirely different. Because God cannot be perceived by outward senses: the mind, intellect, and inference, and reason, because He is beyond that. Do you understand? And I think this subject this morning, has been taken to point out to us, especially, the difference between booklearning and Realization, as pertaining to Spiritual things and the knowing of God. Because remember, our scriptures say "God is a Spirit and must be worshiped in Spirit⁷."

How can you know God through the faculties of senses, mind, intellect, inference and reason? How can you? You cannot. But you can know the theory about God; but you cannot actually have the perception of God. You cannot taste God, except through the Realization of the Intuition of the Soul. And so, that is very important, and at this time, I want to give you one or two illustrations comparing

⁷ St. John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth"

booklearning, or knowledge, with Realization concerning hearing, feeling, sight, and fear, feeling – hearing, sight, and feeling.

Now you can read, you can read about the actual, the perception of the subtle Spiritual sounds within you. You can read that in the scriptures. Even in our own Bible there's reference to the actual sounds of the spinal Centers. And there are many books; one which comes to my mind, Avalon's book⁸. You can read all about the sounds of the different chakras. But it is quite different than the actual perceiving of these sounds through Intuition. You can read in our Holy Bible, in Ezekiel, about the chakras of the spine where it says, "thou didst walk up and down midst the stones fire⁹," which refers to the Centers of the spine. And those vibrating Centers of Energy give off a sound, a vibration. You can read about that in several books; but it is quite different than through intuition, actually hearing those Spiritual sounds. Not through the ear, not through the outward mechanism of the ear, but through the Intuition of your Soul. There's a vast difference between booklearning and Realization.

Then, also, take sight. Also take Spiritual sight, Internal Sight. You can read in our own Bible, "If thine eye be single thy body'll be filled with light¹⁰." You can read in various scriptures and in other books on Hindu philosophy about the Spiritual Eye, and the Chakras of the spine. You can read all about them, but you cannot know them through theory. You cannot know them through booklearning. You may be able to tell me, "Yes. The Adjna Center has two arms, two rays of light," and you can tell me all about it in theory. But when you actually perceive it through the Power of your Soul and the Intuition of the Soul, it will be different, because it cannot be known, it cannot be perceived, through outward means of senses, mind, and intellect.

And so, you can see how very important it is, in the matter of religion, to differentiate between booklearning about Spiritual things, and actual Realization of them. "If thine eye be single, thy body'll be filled with light¹¹." But when it is actually single, then through Intuition, you perceive the Door to the Internal Kingdom of God, and you actually see – not in imagination, not in theory – you actually see the Great Light of God at that point [the point between the eyebrows in the forehead]. There is a vast difference.

⁸ *Shakti and Shākta* by Arthur Avalon (Sir John Woodroffe), [1918]

⁹ Ezekiel 28:14

¹⁰ Matthew 6:22

¹¹ Ibid

And, finally, in feeling, when we come to feeling, we read about the ecstasy of saints. We read about that, those of you who've read the book, The Saints That Moved the World¹². You read all about it. But there's a vast difference between that theoretical knowledge and the actual perception of the Bliss of God through the Intuition of the Soul. It is entirely different.

And remember, God is a Spirit and must be worshiped in Spirit. And only through Intuitional Realization can we really perceive Him, and taste Him, and know Him as Bliss. God is Bliss. God is Bliss. Can you, by any stretch of your imagination, theoretically describe Bliss? Try it. You cannot do it. You have to perceive it through being, by being one with it. Actually merge in it. Then you know the Bliss of God.

And so, these things are very important; especially, that we realize the difference between theoretical religion, dogmatic religion, and outward form of religion, and the actual Realization of the Presence of God within. The Universality of Religion cannot be known by theoretical means. The Universality of Religion cannot be known by the senses, mind, and intellect, and inference, and reason, because the Universality of Religion is the Light of God, which is perceived at the Christ Center, here, in the beginning. That's the Door through which you go into the Internal Kingdom of God.

Now, anybody, everybody, irrespective of color, race, or creed can see that same Light of God. That's the Universality of Religion. Not whether you are a Catholic, Jew, Protestant, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian, Universalists, or nothing like that. It's the One Light of God at this point [the Spiritual Eye]. That's the difference between theoretical religion, booklearning religion, and actual Realization of the Presence of God within. We should remember that. And so, let us not be satisfied; let us not be satisfied with booklearning; especially, when it comes to knowing God, because you will not know Him. He has to be perceived. We have to know Him through Realization.

Now Realization gives us the true picture of life. Booklearning keeps us in the realm of the paradoxes of life. Look about you. Look about you in life. You cannot reconcile the many things that go on; the paradoxes of some are wealthy, some are poor, some are healthy, some are sick – and that goes on and on. Why? Because, you're dealing with the subject in a theoretical way – through booklearning. But when, through Realization, you go within, and you still the

¹² By Renee Fülöp-Miller (out of publication)

waves of the mind by following the different techniques, which the Master has given to us, because He knew God – he had Realization; he was not satisfied with just booklearning; he knew whereof he spoke – and when you follow him, and follow the techniques which he lays down – the techniques of concentration; the techniques of meditation, where you actually contact the Holy Ghost within you; and Kriya Yoga – you actually contact God; you taste Him; you realize Him. When you do that, then you will understand the paradoxes of life. You'll understand that they are not the Reality of life. You will go beneath them, and you'll find the One Eternal Truth underneath. You'll find the One God, the One Eternal Light, the One Great Love.

And so, we must not be sidetracked by superficial religion. We must realize this one thing, and do not forget it. Booklearning is very superficial – is not satisfying. Realization is deep – very satisfying. Why? Because it gives you actual contact with God. Knowing, having that contact, you'll realize, "I am not the body;" "I'm not this changeable body, but I am an underlying, Eternal, Immortal Spirit of God, which is in me; the One Eternal Father; my Father; your Father. That's what I am, or have realized – God within me."