



*Your Mystical Adventure:
Find the Divine in Everything!*

a spiritual audio book by Tom Razzeto

Transcripts of the 73 minute mystical audio book

Preface

As always, my focus is to inspire people to be kinder both to themselves and to others and to help create world peace by helping people create for themselves a deep and lasting personal peace.

This audio book is meant to be an introduction to my work and an overview of what I consider to be the most important principles of the mystical, non-dual philosophy. I almost called it, "Your Mystical Starter Kit". If I could only offer one audio book and it could only be one hour long, this would be it.

Even if you have never considered the mystical, non-dual point of view before, I think you will find this presentation clear and insightful. Some portions of the presentation are very passionate as I speak with my whole heart and my full emotions.

I hope enjoy both reading and listening!

Together we can all work towards world peace!

Sincerely,



Thomas Razzeto

<http://www.useyourmagic.com/>

Use Your Magic for Personal and World Peace!

Chapter 1 – Is the World an Illusion?

Many of us have heard people say, "The world is an illusion." Why would anyone say that? (Knock, knock, knock on a solid table.) It sure seems real to me! What could they possibly mean by this? What evidence do they have? Why would anyone believe them? Why would anyone even listen to them?

Well, I suspect that people who have had a near-death experience or an out-of-body experience might have been saying something like this for thousands of years. Plato wrote about the near-death experience of a soldier over 23 hundred years ago. I'll talk more about these types of experiences later but right now, let's focus on what someone might mean by saying that the world is an illusion.

In our modern society, people frequently think that if something is said to be an illusion that it is completely not real. No reality to it at all. Nothing. But consider a stage magician. He's a master illusionist. Many people have seen the magic trick where he puts his assistant in a big box and cuts her in half with a saw. We see her head, arms and feet sticking out of the box. What we see is real. There really is a person, a box, a saw etc etc. But we are not seeing the whole picture. We don't see that there is another person hiding in the box who makes up the other half of the assistant and creates the illusion of one person cut into two pieces.

So I think that a good definition of an illusion is something whose true reality, whose full reality, is greater than or different from what we at first think. The dictionary says that an illusion is a misleading image, a mistaken idea. So, in a funny way, it can be said that an illusion is real. Yes, it has a reality to it. It's just that that reality is different from what it at first seems.

In the example of the stage magician, it is important to note that our physical senses are doing their jobs perfectly. We are accurately seeing the head and feet sticking out of the box. But we are making a mistake if we think that the feet that we see are the feet of the assistant and that false assumption leads to the incorrect conclusion that the assistant was cut in half. That idea is completely false but our raw perception is accurate. Once we see the bigger picture, we are no longer confused or tricked by the illusion. An incomplete picture can lead to the wrong conclusion.

By the way, if you hear someone say that time is an illusion and it therefore does not exist, don't be fooled. Of course time exists, we experience it at every moment and we have a past and a future. Earlier today, I had breakfast and later I tonight, I'll sleep for hours. But the point of time being an illusion is a good one. Is there more to time than meets the eye?

And this leads us back to our original question: "Is our entire physical world the "totality of reality" or is it just "part of the picture", an illusion? Is there more to reality than that revealed by the physical senses? What is the true nature, the full nature, of reality? What role do we play in it? To what extent do we have freewill? To what degree do we control our own life? What is the big picture?"

I like to call the big picture, "The Mystic's View". Let's move on to that right now.

Chapter 2 - The Mystic's View: God and Creation Are the Same Reality in Different Forms

Some people believe that God is in everything. How could this be true and yet not be obvious? How could a common rock be God? Let's look into this question by considering the following.

Suppose you have arrived on Earth from far away and are exploring it for the first time. And suppose you have found a block of frozen ice. As you examine the ice closely, you take note of its properties. It is so cold that it almost hurts to touch it. It is very hard and will not flow around your hand but if you hit it with a rock, you can break off a few pieces.

Then image that you discover a natural hot springs big enough to jump into. The hot water feels fantastic and you delight in how it flows all around your body. The water can be splashed about but it does not break into pieces.

Surely you have discovered two very different things, two things that have nothing in common at all. Their properties are exactly opposite. One is cold and solid, the other is hot and fluid. One is breakable, the other is not.

And then it happens. The block of ice falls into the hot pool of water and right before your very eyes it melts in a matter of minutes. Now you clearly see that it is made out of the same thing that the hot water is made out of! There's no denying this now. But a few minutes ago it was very different! It was in a different form, a different state, which gave it a completely different set of properties, a completely different set of qualities.

Could this be similar to God and Creation? Let's expand the water analogy to include water vapor, an invisible, formless gas. That might be like God the Source. We cannot see God the Source since the Source has no form.

And yet, if the Source wanted to create a spiritual world, a world of angels, for example, the Source could choose to lower the temperature, the vibration, of the H₂O that is the divine essence of all things and part of the Source would change from an invisible gas into liquid water that now has some form to it.

This spiritual world could include beings with a sense of self and freewill. They would not appear to be the same as the Creator and yet they would be made out of the same divine essence. Beings in this world would have their senses tuned to that realm, that dimension, so they would be able to perceive and experience everything in it.

And if the Source wanted to create a physical world, to create our universe, the Source could choose to lower the temperature even more and part of the Source would then take on many magnificent new forms.

Similar to before, this physical realm could also include beings with a sense of self and freewill. And again, they would not appear to be the same as the Creator and yet they would be made out of the same divine essence. These beings would, of course, have their senses tuned to the physical world allowing them to perceive and experience everything in it but they would generally be blind to everything in the spiritual world.

In this view, it's important to note that while we are all made out of the same thing, we are not all the same. From the point of view of our common daily life, we each have our own unique "personal self", precious and special but not in an egotistical sense. We are each a unique expression of the eternal divine essence. We each have our own body, we each have our own thoughts and we each have our own feelings. Yet while we are all different, we are all connected to each other, to everything, through this mysterious divine essence and we are all divine drops in the ocean of God.

Now consider for a moment that the eternal divine essence was wood. You can make a chair out of wood, you can make a house out of wood and you can make a boat out of wood. While all these things are made out of the same thing, they are each very different. If you are out on the ocean, the boat will serve you best and if a storm is coming, the shelter of the house will benefit you the most.

So don't make the mistake of saying, "Well, since everything is divine, everything is the same and I will not make any distinctions between people or things." Some people and things may mix with you in a more harmonious way so choose wisely and enrich your life.

And still, with this mystical understanding, you will perceive every act as a divine act, every thought as a divine thought, every emotion as a divine emotion and every thing as the divine in physical form. You are not simply connected to God, every aspect of your being is divine! God is not just deep within you at a special place, you are divine at every level!

In the formless state of the eternal divine essence as source, there is only oneness, wholeness, and yet in that mysterious state, nothing is manifest. It is here that we all dissolve into oneness. Yet in our physical world, the wholeness of this mystery is presented to us in a way that makes it appear as separate pieces. This is the illusion of the world. But just because the world is an illusion does not make it not real. Remember, an illusion is something whose true reality, whose full reality, is greater than or different from what we at first think.

When the mystery becomes manifest, it presents itself with form, with an appearance. It is this physical appearance that our scientists focus on and in many ways they do an excellent job. Yet few of them have any interest in the awareness that actually sees the world, human consciousness itself. Of course, some of them study the personality or the physiology of perception but that is not the awareness. This mysterious awareness is what you actually are. It is the buried treasure hidden within the self, the kingdom of heaven within you. Your "personal self" may be your body, your mind and your personality but your true self is the awareness that perceives everything that you experience. This is what the Gnostics focus on when they say, "Know yourself and you shall know God."

Most analogies fall short in some respect, and the water analogy is no exception, yet I like it in many ways. But is it true? Is everything we see actually the eternal divine essence in physical form? Does God intentionally hide from us so as to invigorate the play we are all in and charge it with emotion? Can we see God hiding in the world just like we might see a secret assistant to the magician? Is this divine essence the core of the wonder and awe that we feel when we admire the beauty of nature and each other?

The topics that I have presented so far, such as out-of-body experiences, near-death experiences and the existence of past lives all point to a nature of reality that is profoundly different from what is commonly believed. Our mysterious awareness itself is not even visible to us and yet we know it exists because we experience the world through it.

Let's continue our exploration of the mysterious nature of reality by moving on to my mystical poem.

Chapter 3 - To Love Like God - A Mystic's Poem

Byron Katie inspired me to write this poem. Her books, *Loving What Is*, *A Thousand Names for Joy* and others, talk about how the thoughts and attitude that you bring to each and every moment determine your emotional experience of that moment. If you bring the thoughts and attitude of acceptance and embrace, you will experience the emotions of oneness, peace and joy. If you bring the thoughts and attitude of rejection, you will experience the emotions of separation, frustration, fear and pain. The poem starts off with these ideas and moves on to other ideas often labeled 'non-dual', what I like to call 'mysticism'.

Here's the poem. I hope you enjoy it!

To Love Like God - A Mystic's Poem

*I wanted the world to be different,
so I told the world it could stick it!
But the only thing stuck
was the me in my rut,
a face so long you couldn't miss it.*

*Align the whole world to my wishes,
especially romantic kisses.
Only then will I choose
some delight, not to lose.
But this grand plan, it often misses.*

*In a new way, I found a new thought.
It truly shows what cannot be bought.
Acceptance is the key,
done emotionally!
Only this brings the joy that is sought.*

*I now clearly see what I can do!
The gift of the now, it offers two!
Choose a smile or a frown.
Pick an up or a down.
Like magic it flows matching my view.*

*Plant different seeds, take new action!
Don't be afraid, work with elation!
In the heart, what we sow,
we soon see in the flow.
A spiritual farmer's transaction.*

*Though I do love the world as it is,
I fancy more caring and kindness.
Everyday a new start,
peace and love in my heart.
Here and now sweet heaven arises.*

*God and creation are one, not two!
Like water and ice, they differ to you.
Diverse forms, nothing more,
both the same at their core.
All things divine, though hidden from view.*

*Can it be true, though hidden from you?
God's magic trick, to show up as you!
Both the good and the bad,
all the glad and the sad,
one Grand Spirit enlivens the crew!*

*Give the embrace, no matter the face.
At home and afar, yes, everyplace.
Rock and dirt, tree and vine,
she and he, all divine!
What is not God, I could find no trace.*

*Each part of God, like drops in the sea,
connected to all, what mystery!
A genuine embrace
of the whole human race.
The power to make new history!*

*I know that most consider it odd,
the mystic's view, its picture broad.
This fresh view, could it be?
With new eyes, now I see!
To love it all is to love like God!*

Chapter 4 - To Love Like God - The Essay

Now that you have heard the poem in its entirety, I'd like to go deeper into each stanza, starting with the first. Here it is:

*I wanted the world to be different,
so I told the world it could stick it!
But the only thing stuck
was the me in my rut,
a face so long you couldn't miss it.*

I start the poem by stating that when I don't get what I want and I emotionally reject an aspect of the world as it is, I experience sadness, difficulty and emotional pain. If I constantly find fault with the world, I will constantly suffer.

And what determines the amount, the intensity, of the suffering that I experience? Surprisingly, the degree that I suffer does not match the amount of the difference between what I want and what I have or my belief of how things should be and how things really are. The degree that I suffer matches how strongly I choose to emotionally reject the situation and this is related to how much importance I choose to attach to that particular subject.

The following is an example of an extremely minor difference held as greatly important and strongly judged as not acceptable.

I remember when I was a 12-year-old boy with a brand new bicycle. It was my pride and joy. But a little white plastic cover for the tip of the kickstand got lost after about two weeks. This cover was only meant to be used while the bicycle was on display in the store. Once the bike was sold, the cover was meant to be thrown away.

But I did not hold that view and I wanted my bike to always be perfect, just like it was when it was new! When the cover got lost, boy, that was, in my eyes, a very serious unsolvable problem and I cried and cried even though my bike still worked perfectly. I finally got over it and never thought about it again except as an example of me choosing to create an emotionally painful experience.

Perhaps that experience was unnecessary but perhaps the situation was actually created by me, my higher-self or God to offer me a lesson about attachment and judgment with an example that did not harm my body or even my bike.

In this example, "wanting" is an emotionally charged desire. I like to use the word "prefer" for wanting something without the emotional charge. In other words, if I don't get what I want, I suffer, if I don't get what I prefer, I'm still pretty happy. The subject can be the same, it's the emotional charge that's gone.

And ponder this: if something really should be different, wouldn't it actually be different?

Are there examples in your life where something used to bother you a lot but now when they happen, it's no big deal? Can you learn to emotionally accept more and more of the world exactly as it is?

Second Stanza

*Align the whole world to my wishes,
especially romantic kisses.
Only then will I choose
some delight, not to lose.
But this grand plan, it often misses.*

Now, of course, many of us do experience periods of time when we are pretty happy and perhaps even ecstatic about our situation. Life is certainly not all suffering, even if we're not enlightened. When we have things the way we want, we give ourselves permission and we choose to "push the happiness button", which is on the inside. I call this "conditional happiness" since we choose it only when our worldly conditions are acceptable.

Yet these moments of joy may also present a problem: How can we make them last? How can we hold on to them? If we don't make the conditions last, our happiness also disappears. Our culture focuses heavily on romantic love and once we find it, we certainly want it to last so I use that as an example.

Yet we all know that everything will change. Sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly, but nevertheless, all things do change.

Parents see their little children, whom they want to hold in their arms forever, grow up and fly away into the world. How much courage does it take to love them fully while they are home knowing that one day they'll be gone? What does it mean to fully love something and yet be perfectly OK emotionally when it goes away? Is this even possible? Well, for many people, "This grand plan, it often misses."

Third Stanza

*In a new way, I found a new thought.
It truly shows what cannot be bought.
Acceptance is the key,
done emotionally!
Only this brings the joy that is sought.*

First I think the thought, "If I emotionally accept this situation exactly the way that it is right now, what will happen? What emotions will I experience? Will I be happy?" Then I carry this thought further into reality by actually embracing the situation emotionally. When I do that, I do experience joy to the same level that I embrace the situation, without clutching it in a desperate way. The fuller the embrace, the deeper the joy.

So the old saying, "You can't buy happiness" seems true to me. And not only is happiness completely free, it's always available! Yes, you can press the happiness button at any time, not just when things meet your approval. Because of that, I call this "unconditional happiness".

The joy experienced by both the conditional and unconditional approach is the same joy, only the self-imposed requirements are different.

Indeed, happiness is simply a choice that you make at every moment.

Fourth Stanza

*I now clearly see what I can do!
The gift of the now, it offers two!
Choose a smile or a frown.
Pick an up or a down.
Like magic it flows matching my view.*

The present moment is like a gift, a "present". And it's a magical gift that becomes what you make it. The attitude that you hold as you unwrap the present determines whether your experience is joyful or sorrowful. This is true for each and every moment regardless of any outer circumstances.

If you bring an attitude of acceptance and embrace, you will experience the emotions of oneness, peace and joy. If you bring an attitude of rejection, you will experience the emotions of separation, frustration, fear and pain.

If someone cuts you off in traffic, our society almost demands angry thoughts, a hateful attitude and even a rude hand gesture. Similarly, our society forbids you to emotionally embrace moments that are connected with injury, sickness, death or tragedy and requires you to judge these things as "bad" and unacceptable.

Do you really want to follow society's dictates when they only lead to suffering?

Fifth Stanza

*Plant different seeds, take new action!
Don't be afraid, work with elation!
In the heart, what we sow,
we soon see in the flow.
A spiritual farmer's transaction.*

Here I underline the idea that just because you emotionally accept everything about the present moment doesn't mean that you can't work for new things to come forth. If you see disharmony or injustice around you, you may choose to work towards bringing forth your preferred outer conditions of peace and justice.

Indeed, the very process of peacefully accepting the current outer conditions is what will help make that shift happen. The seeds of emotion that we plant in our hearts bring about corresponding conditions in the outer world after the time of incubation passes.

But the subject of creation is a tricky one. Many teachers claim that you can be, do and have anything that you want, that you are limited only by your imagination, your thoughts and your discipline.

Although I do not hold that view, I do believe that most people would benefit greatly by learning what I call "conscious creation" rather than using the habitual, reactive "unconscious creation" seen all throughout society.

The first step in conscious creation is to make a distinction between "inner creation" and "outer creation".

Inner creation is the creation of your emotions, your personal subjective experience of the immediate moment. The significance of this cannot be overstated since these are the actual experiences that make up your entire life!

Inner creation instantly creates any human emotion from pure agony to total ecstasy. Each and every human being can experience all of these emotions. And, while we all can create these emotions consciously by choosing our thoughts and attitude, most people unconsciously create them with habitual thoughts and reactions.

Outer creation is a process that unfolds through time. It's the attraction of people, things and events into your life. These are all outer conditions.

I don't believe that all outer conditions are available to everyone. In other words, we all have different menus, so to speak. One person may be able to become world famous and yet another person, seemingly similar in every respect, may achieve only minor success, as measured by society, even though she or he works wisely and diligently with a positive attitude.

Nonetheless, we all have numerous choices and certainly many of them will be in harmony with our personal growth.

It's somewhat like a farmer. He may choose to plant several crops and put forth all the appropriate effort but the farmer has no guarantee that anything will grow at all.

Normally, most of his crops do grow. In addition to the crops, he may also get some weeds or other unexpected plants. On rare occasion, a severe drought and heat wave may stifle the crops completely leaving nothing but dirt. And if the farmer does not plant any crops, he might face only the weeds whose seeds the wind has delivered.

Your thoughts and attitude instantly create your emotions of the moment and your thoughts, attitude, emotions and beliefs, which are habitual thoughts, attract the conditions of the outer world as time unfolds. The outer reflects the inner and it all begins with a thought. When you are aware of the process, you can consciously choose. When you are unaware of the process, you just react habitually, usually following the dictates of society.

So I encourage people to consciously work toward new things. Yes, plant some crops! But don't harshly blame yourself if it does not turn out the way you had envisioned. Just accept it as "what is" and move forward. No one can know exactly what the future will bring. And remember, God may have a big surprise for you at any moment! What would life be like without surprises?

Sixth Stanza

*Though I do love the world as it is,
I fancy more caring and kindness.
Everyday a new start,
peace and love in my heart.
Here and now sweet heaven arises.*

Here I state that I would like to bring forth more caring and kindness. With every new moment, I have the opportunity to place peace and love into my heart and then nurture these seeds through time.

If I hold emotional judgment in my heart in the form of frustration, anger or hatred regarding the current conditions of the world, those emotional seeds will, in time, bring forth new corresponding disharmonious outer expressions such as tension between other people and perhaps even violence or war.

Since I may also emotionally reject the new outer conditions that arise, I may find myself stuck in a circle of unconscious creation, a circle of disharmony. This is basically what is happening all throughout the world today in every aspect of society.

It is important to note that the circle of unconscious creation is a private, personal experience under the direct control of each individual. Yes, there are also dynamic energetic connections between people but the important point is that each individual has control over their own thoughts, which is the origin of their emotional experience, which, in turn, attracts the outer events as time unfolds.

Yes, we reap what we sow yet we can make a shift towards personal peace by consciously choosing harmony and kindness and by letting go of judgment. This, in time, will bring forth new peaceful outer conditions. Try it yourself and see what arises!

Yet sometimes very difficult situations arise, such as the passing of a loved one. The idea is to respond to what arises in a natural, genuine way as free from judgmental thought as possible. In other words, I don't necessarily think that the goal is to be happy all the time, I think that the goal is to be fully alive in the moment!

Animals experience fear in a natural and genuine way but only at the appropriate times. They also experience joy and sadness. Similarly, we can experience these emotions as part of the natural flow of life without being chained to the pains the past or in constant fear of what the future may bring.

When you find yourself feeling deep sorrow, don't be afraid of it or judge it, dive into it head first! Be fully alive! You may surprise yourself by discovering that while it can be a very uncomfortable emotion, after it passes, your true essence, your awareness, is not damaged at all.

Life is a package deal. Birth eventually leads to death.

Be alive with such fullness that even if the emotion is deep sorrow, as this emotion courses through your being resonating with every cell, there is still an underlying healthy sense of tremendous vitality that comes from your fearless thrusting of yourself into the moment with the thought: "I AM ALIVE!! I am a human being with the power to feel all human emotions! And these emotions will never harm me!"

There is no such thing as "badness". Is it really bad to be sad? It is the constant running around in such a way so as to avoid what we normally call "bad" and seek out what we call "good" that brings us an unnatural life.

Unawakened people focus on getting everything they want. Mystics know that they can safely experience and embrace whatever shows up!

Embrace the whole of life and you will embrace the whole of God!

Seventh Stanza

*God and creation are one, not two!
Like water and ice, they differ to you.
Diverse forms, nothing more,
both the same at their core.
All things divine, though hidden from view.*

The idea of God and creation being the same reality in different forms is one of my favorite topics. It's my definition of mysticism.

One analogy that I like is liquid water and ice. They both are H₂O, which stands for the eternal divine essence. This essence can take different forms which results in different properties, different characteristics. If you did not know the truth, you might be certain that liquid water and ice have nothing in common with each other. Yet these wildly different forms share the exact same essence.

Is this what's going on with God and creation? The mystic says, "Yes!" and the implications are mind-blowing!

With this mystical understanding, you will perceive every act as a divine act, every thought as a divine thought, every emotion as a divine emotion and every thing as the divine in physical form. You are not simply connected to God, every aspect of your being is divine! God is not just deep within you at a special place, you are divine at every level!

Eighth Stanza

*Can it be true, though hidden from you?
God's magic trick, to show up as you!
Both the good and the bad,
all the glad and the sad,
one Grand Spirit enlivens the crew!*

Most of my experience with poetry is reading Dr. Seuss to my nieces. I love Dr. Seuss and this entire poem is meant to have a playful, bouncy Dr. Seuss tone to it. While the poem is meant to be fun and childlike, it also asks some very deep questions such as, "Can it be true, though hidden from you? God's magic trick, to show up as you!"

The line, "One Grand Spirit enlivens the crew!" expresses the mystical idea that there is only one spirit, only one consciousness, that of the eternal divine essence, which animates all of life!

It's like there are billions of hand puppets on earth, all apparently different people, animals and plants. But when we see beyond the illusion of separateness to the full picture of what is really taking place, we see that there is only one puppet master with billions of hands animating it all! What a miracle! What a mystery!

Ninth and Tenth Stanzas

*Give the embrace, no matter the face.
At home and afar, yes, everyplace.
Rock and dirt, tree and vine,
she and he, all divine!
What is not God, I could find no trace.*

*Each part of God, like drops in the sea,
connected to all, what mystery!
A genuine embrace
of the whole human race.
The power to make new history!*

Once the mystic sees the whole world as the eternal divine essence in physical form, everything becomes precious and sacred. Deep compassion for all people, animals and even plants springs forth automatically.

Yet before we realize the mystic's view, while we are still tricked by the illusion of separateness, we really can see that we are all at least connected to one another like a big family. If we turn that connection into a genuine embrace, we will create lasting peace.

Eleventh Stanza

*I know that most consider it odd,
the mystic's view, its picture broad.
This fresh view, could it be?
With new eyes, now I see!
To love it all is to love like God!*

Why should you love the entire world, each and every person on it and everything they do? If you get to the point where you see everything as God and the unfolding of the divine process, it's easy.

But what about before that point? What if you are not yet able to see or feel God in everything?

Consider the following.

If God did not want something to exist, it would not exist. If God was truly against something happening, it would not happen. For whatever reason, God allows everything that comes forth.

Those are some interesting thoughts for you to ponder.

And those thoughts lead into a pretty big question: Does God really love it all? Does God love each and every person? Does God joyfully accept each and every event? Birth and death? Every experience there is? Ecstasy and agony? Is it possible that God truly loves all of creation?

Without even having to answer those questions, you can ask yourself some even more important questions:

Can you love it all?

Will you love it all, simply because you can?

Do you dare give it a try?

What would happen to you if you did?

What would you become if you really did love it all?

And you can answer these questions but only by doing it and watching what happens. This is not a theory, this is an experience that only you can give to yourself. And that experience will bring wisdom that can never be forgotten or taken away.

You are the eternal divine essence of love and peace. That is what you are. It never changes. This is why you can have a direct personal experience of God! Now, you can ignore what you are and you can pretend to be other things. You can create other experiences by tying these fundamental divine elements of love and peace into a tight knot of frustration, fear, hatred and pain but your essence is always the same, pure love and perfect peace.

When you look at the world through the eyes of a mystic and see everything as divine, you will love it all automatically. It's what happens when you drop the habitual, judgmental thoughts of social consciousness. This is the treasure awaiting all who are willing to embrace it.

Do you have the courage? Will you do it?

Will you love like God?

Chapter 5 - Your Journey into Gnosis

In ancient Greece, there was a group called the Gnostics. They believed that you could validate truth by direct, personal experience. Imagine you met a gnostic today. If you presented them with a crazy idea, they might try to confirm it with a personal experience.

For example, if they have never seen a unicycle and you tell them about one, they might be curious. Without handle bars, it would be very hard to balance and steer and with only one wheel, it would fall over in every direction: forwards, backwards and to both sides! Sounds pretty crazy, to be sure!

But a gnostic would simply give it a try and in the process, something that seemed impossible would be demonstrated to be feasible, once you get the knack.

The pinnacle of the gnostic teaching is that God and creation are the same reality in different forms, mysticism! Without a doubt, this idea seems way more crazy than the unicycle!

Yet the Gnostics explored the full mystery of reality with their simple, direct approach. Just give it a try and see for yourself what the full nature of reality truly is! While, of course, no one can do this for you, people who have traveled along the path before can inspire you and help you by reporting what they have learned.

The Gnostics saw the process of awakening to the mystic's view as unfolding in four stages, which are represented by what they called "the four elements": earth, water, air and fire.

The first stage is when people believe that the world is only physical and they totally identify themselves as their body. They do not believe in a God, a spirit world or a soul. You can see that solid earth is an excellent symbol for this belief system. Their consciousness, personality and mind are seen as aspects of their body, things that arise out of the chemistry of the body. When the body dies, they are absolutely gone forever.

When people start to study subjects such as out-of-body experiences, near-death experiences, and past lives, they move into the non-physical world, a world that is less solid, less dense. This is represented by water and people moving into this stage are sometimes symbolically baptized with water.

The next step is when they start to study their own mysterious awareness itself. This stage is represented by air. Although we cannot directly see air, we know that it exists because we see it blow the leaves in the trees. Similarly, we cannot see our awareness directly yet we know it exists because we experience absolutely everything through it. As the Gnostics contemplate this mysterious awareness, they move further down the path of self-discovery.

The final stage is a dramatic awakening, a transformation that produces what they called "the fire of gnosis". Here, there is a direct, personal experience of God, which is only possible because you are God! This experience reveals that everything is the eternal divine essence in various forms. Now the false idea of the personal-self being the totality of the self is consumed by the fire of gnosis and they no longer identify themselves completely with the personal-self and they awaken to the transcendent-self.

Both the personal-self and the transcendent-self have validity. In a way, one is a drop in the ocean of God and the other is the ocean itself. While the personal-self still exists, they no longer are tricked by the illusion, which suggests that they are only their personal-self.

So we see that self-discovery leads to God-discovery. Or, as the Gnostics put it, "Know yourself and you shall know God."

Now, you don't need to be at any particular stage to have a full, happy and meaningful life. As you share your kindness, respect and appreciation with others, that fullness comes forth automatically. So take good care of both yourself and others as you move along the path. There's no rush and in a funny way, being fully present right where you are at this very moment can be said to be the goal.

If you are inspired, start meditating and study the works of mystics and non-dual teachers. I focus on helping people create for themselves a deep and lasting personal peace because I believe that only this can lead towards world peace. This personal peace comes about when we awaken to our innate power of conscious creation.

So go forth on your journey into gnosis. Be excited to be alive and exploring this fabulous mystery we call life! Create personal peace now and help create world peace! Together we can bring world peace to us all!

Thank you for your help!

And thanks for listen. I'm Thomas Razzeto. You can get more information about my mystical audio books for both children and grown-ups at use your magic dot com. Have a magical and mystical day!

Beyond Gender - Divine Love!

Jan 2007 by Thomas Razzeto - useyourmagic.com

A popular book has a title that states that men come from a far away planet and that women come from a completely different far away planet. The implication is that we have very different fundamental natures, that we are basically different creatures, and can only hope of getting along when we both understand these natures. While this book has genuinely helped millions of people, I would like to add a few comments of my own.

What I see is that men come from little boys and that women come from little girls. And that those little boys and those little girls come from their own mothers but only when their mothers and their fathers have shared sacred sensual pleasure. And as those little babies are growing inside the womb, the same cell mass that forms the ovaries in the little girls will form the testicles of the little boys. This is one of the most profound examples of duality arising from the same source, from the "One".

If our bodies are one obvious way that men and women are different and yet the most gender specific parts of our bodies develop from the same source, maybe we are not really all that different. Maybe men and women have more in common than we have been led to believe.

I often wonder what we would be like as men and women and as boys and girls without the social conditioning that tells us all, young and old, what we are supposed to be and do in order to fit in, in order to be accepted, in order to be loved. I wonder who we would be without the poisonous thinking that society pushes upon us at every moment, the poisonous thinking of competition rather than cooperation. In a healthy society, we would all work together in harmony and share the fruit of our labor of love. There would always be helping hands offered at every turn.

Yes, there are differences between men and women. Vive la difference! If you have a job that requires big muscles, say you need to carry some big rocks up to the top of a hill, then maybe you will benefit from the help of a bunch of strong men ... or strong women. But if the job is the one where someone grows a little baby inside their own body, you need a courageous woman ... who has held a man.

In other words, when it comes to common chores and careers, both men and women can get the job done. Most of the time in our society, the difference in performance of men and women is not critically important as long as the task is reasonably well suited to the person.

The most important thing we do as humans is to create and raise new little people. In fact, the family of humanity can only continue to exist as long as mothers, fathers and children continue to exist. This is the natural trinity which leads to eternal life for the species if we can all cooperate with one another and with nature.

I think that we should celebrate the uniqueness of every individual and not make assumptions about who someone is or what they can do based on their gender. We each have something special to give to the world and that gift is our own wondrous self. We shouldn't look up or down to any individual because of what that person has achieved in the world or even what they have developed within themselves concerning their personality or spiritual understanding. We are all individuals learning, some even learning by teaching.

When we, as a society, learn to hold as precious every individual no matter what their faults are, no matter how far they've fallen down, when we all cooperate and help one another when one of us is in need, we might not have a perfect, pain-free world, but we will have a world as near to paradise as we can create on this physical plane, the plane of duality, the plane with loss and gain, the plane with joy and pain.

And we can learn to hold everyone as precious. Mothers and fathers will always remember the preciousness of their miraculous, newborn child. When each of us was born, we each embodied a unique, astounding expression of the divine creative force. And we each are as precious now as we were when we were born! We are still that miracle; we are still that mystery! Yes, we all deserve respect and appreciation, not because of what we've done as individuals, but because of what we all are.

We are all made out of the eternal divine essence, each of us, that never goes away, it never changes. You are not simply connected to God, every aspect of your being is divine. God is not just deep within you at a special place, you are divine at every level. Every thought we have, is a divine thought. Every emotion we feel, is a divine emotion. Every action we take, is a divine action. Every thing we see, is the divine taking physical form.

Now let's consider the following.

In our society, we are encouraged to label so many things as masculine and feminine as if there can be nothing else, as if there has to be one or the other. And yet I ask you, what gender, if any, is the essence of the following things: respect, cooperation, kindness, and peace. Or even fear, anger and war.

Suppose we have an aggressive, dominating man who has been taught for decades how to get what he wants by asserting his power over others. He might not be that open, that coachable, if we approach him and say, "Let's teach you to bring out your feminine, teach you to be gentle and understanding."

But if we don't label those things as feminine and we simply say, "We would like to inspire you to bring out your full humanity, to inspire you to be respectful and appreciative of others," he might be more open to learning these things since it does not conflict with his idea that he is a man.

And now let's consider a woman who has always been a martyr. She never asserts herself; she's afraid to explore her own power. All her life, she is the one who is acquiescing, the one who is constantly saying, "Oh, it's okay, whatever you want is fine with me," and, "How can I help you? What can I give you?" Always plenty of consideration for others but no consideration for herself.

The male is often portrayed as sovereign, the one who loves himself so much that he does whatever he wants while somehow forgetting to consider the feelings and well-being of others. The female is often portrayed as the martyr, the one who loves everyone while somehow being afraid to love herself. One focuses on the self and ignores the group, the other focuses on the group and ignores the self.

The sovereign male and the female martyr are both very out of balance and they do not really represent the natural state of a man or a woman. It is worth noting that these two attitudes dynamically interact to produce the "villain and victim" drama that we often see all around us.

Focusing on the separate self while ignoring the group frequently leads to worry, stress and fear. People often think, "If I don't take care of myself, no one else will. But will I be able to do it? It's just little me against the whole world. What will happen to me if I can no longer take care of myself? Who will take care of me?"

Other people worry that they are not good enough to be loved by anyone, including themselves, while still others are afraid to love themselves because they think that people will judge them as selfish and therefore evil and stop loving them.

By the way, I like to point out that self-love is doing good things for yourself while still respecting others and selfishness is doing things for yourself while disrespecting or hurting others. One is harmonious, the other is not.

Some of these fears that I have mentioned manifest as competition. This is not just a male thing. Our society is highly competitive for both men and women. We compete for friends, lovers, grades, jobs, and more.

And to top it off, we are taught in very subtle ways that it is both necessary and good for us to be competitive since it leads to a society that offers us all better products and services. Yet I contend that we would have even better products and services if we all cooperated. Think about it. If all the car companies helped each other utilize the best new technology and avoid pitfalls, wouldn't we have better cars?

And there is something else that we would have that is vastly more important than better products. We would have peace both within us all and between us all.

Yes, I believe that the fundamental principle that determines whether our world is mostly at peace or mostly at war is the principle of cooperation as contrasted with competition. Personal peace and love are the emotions that are at the core of cooperation while fear is the emotion that fuels competition and today our society is consumed by this fear.

The magic happens when you embrace both the group and the self at the same time. Now you have unconditional love for everyone and yourself working together in harmony for the benefit of all. Since the "all" includes the self, it can be said that this is simply unconditional love for all. Indeed, one for all and all for one!

If Mars represents love of the self and Venus represents love of others, we can say that Earth, which is in an orbit between Mars and Venus, is a wonderful place to love both the self and the group! This is what will create the cooperation needed for the natural trinity to continue its magic and allow for the family of humanity to continually exist in balance with all of creation! This is what will create peace on earth for us all!

When we understand this, we can proclaim, "I am a human being, a unique expression of the eternal divine essence and I am precious. I have the power to choose and I have the ability to create things in my life for myself. Just as I love myself and do good things for myself, I will do good things for everyone!"

Now we have someone who understands true and total love. This is love that goes beyond those gender stereotypes; this is a love that is full and divine! And it is what you truly are. It is what makes up every aspect of your being. It is your very essence. Be bold and live it fully! Have courage and live it now! Honor your essence and always bring forth this divine love!

Thanks for reading my essay. I'm Thomas Razzeto. You can get more information at useyourmagic.com

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Practice These Magic Thoughts and Visions

I deserve God's gifts of joy and peace

I harmonize in peace with everyone in my life

I receive God's gifts of joy and peace

My life is easily filled with kindness, joy and peace

People always treat me with kindness

My home is full of love and respect

The power of God's love and peace flow through me always

I always get the help I need from my parents, friends and God

I am always at peace

I awaken to my full awareness, power and divinity

People around me always share and cooperate

My magic helps others live in joy and peace

People always treat each other kindly

Children play with kindness and sharing

Adults are at peace at home and elsewhere

Soldiers remain always at peace

Our magic brings a lasting peace to everyone everywhere

Make up your own magic thoughts and visions and use your magic to make them real! For more information, please go to: **useyourmagic.com**