

BECOMING SPIRITUALLY STREET-SMART

Dr. Susan G. Shumsky

Now more than ever, since turning the corner on year 2000, we have a sacred responsibility to practice spiritual discernment. Many in the new-consciousness community—even highly skilled, seasoned, professional spiritual practitioners—find the new-age morass a tangled maze of incongruities, a chaotic jumble.

How to untie the skein and unravel the knots of confusion? Can we knit the fabric that clothes our bodies in the divine light of protection as we move into the new millennial renaissance of spiritual healing?

Now we can distinguish genuine spiritual experiences from deceptions of our minds. We can receive true divine revelations and forego mental chatter. We can uncover our true desires in purposeful destiny and let go of wishful thinking and absurd fantasies. Now we must embrace our power and become brilliant beings of divine light, basking in the radiant presence of god.

Most of us, if asked the question, "Who are you?", would answer by identifying ourselves with things of the material world: "I am so-and-so years old. I am such-and-such tall. I live in this house, drive this car, have this job, this wife, these children, this education. I follow this religion, belong to this political party, am spiritual—or not—and busy myself with these hobbies. That's who I am."

But is that who we really are? Are we identified by our history and by material things? Or are we something much deeper?

We have read, we have learned and perhaps we have even taught others many spiritual truths: "You are a divine being. You are mighty, powerful and spiritual. God is within you and around you. You can manifest anything. You have the power to heal anything, to overcome all obstacles. You are divine." You are light. You are love. You are god.

Yet have we fully realized these truths? Are we living examples of god

in action, right here, right now? Or are we mouthing these truths without experiencing them in daily life? Do we really know who we are? How can we become the true lightbeings we aspire to be?

IS GOD ATTAINABLE?

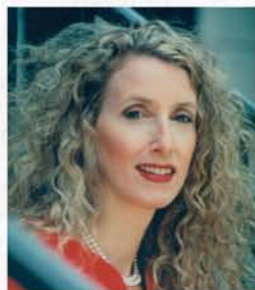
If I were to show you a strawberry and say, "Look how beautiful this strawberry is. See the rich red color with these yellowish spots on it. See the silky green stem. How luscious, how delicious. So sweet, so scrumptious." If you had never tasted a strawberry, then you would not know what I was talking about—that is, until you took a bite out of the strawberry and ate it. Then you would know for sure what a strawberry is.

Similarly, many spiritual leaders and teachers tell their students how wonderful the divine presence is. But they never really help their students to have direct experience of this blissful, resplendent, loving presence. Many teachers have never tasted the strawberry themselves, so how can they possibly help others taste it?

It's not enough to intellectualize the reality of god's presence. It is insufficient to describe god-consciousness. We must experience it and live it as a reality in everyday life, twenty-four hours a day. Then we will really know who we are and who god is.

I am in the divine-revelation business. That means I help people to open up to listening to the still, small voice within and then to have direct contact

and sublime experiences of god. This is an unusual profession —



Susan G. Shumsky
(212) 946-5132
www.divinerevelation.org

about the most unusual profession anyone could have. That is because it is in complete conflict with society's ideas about the nature of humanity and the nature of god. As a matter of fact, it is in direct opposition to most new-age beliefs as well, which you will realize as you read further.

How many of were raised to believe that everyone can have direct two-way conversations with god? How many parents and religions trained us to listen to the voice of god within our hearts? Did we learn how to talk to god just like we can talk on the telephone to a friend?

If you were raised with a "normal" upbringing, then you were taught that if you pray, a capricious god might or might not hear your prayers and then you may or may not get what you asked for. He might reward or punish you, depending on his mood. All conversations with god are one-way conversations. You pray and that's it. Finished. No way could god ever talk back to you.

When you die, maybe, just maybe, you would get a chance to meet god. Perhaps if you were really lucky, you could have a near-death or an out-of-body experience. Then you would experience god directly. Other than that, the only people who are allowed to experience god are the great saints, sages, seers, avatars, prophets, holy men (and I emphasize the word *men*) and other lofty beings, all of whom lived at least 1400 years ago in some faraway place on some mystical mountain or desert. The original scriptures written by these holy men were, of course, the only direct revelations from god and the only word of god. No one can receive divine revelations now. There are no contemporary prophets.

Of course, we lowly worms crawling around on the Earth plane—we cannot have the direct experience of god. We are simply too sinful, unworthy and unde-

serving. Anyway, isn't god too busy to talk to us? This is what most of us have been brainwashed to believe since birth.

EXPERIENCE GOD DIRECTLY?

My beliefs fly in the face of the societal norm. It is my conviction that every one of us can see, hear, feel and experience the presence of god directly—right here, right now. We do not need to die in order to do this. There is no one on Earth who cannot do this.

God is not a capricious being who is limited by time or space. God is present everywhere and can be in many places and times at once. God places no conditions, rules or regulations on whom he/she/it favors. God has no bias toward one group, race or religion.

The scriptures of every major religion tell us that god is everywhere present and also right here, within us and around us, right now:

Christian

- “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- “The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” (Luke 17:20-21)
- “[The Lord] be not far from every one of us: For in him we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:27-28)

Judeo-Christian

- “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.” (Psalms 139:7-10)

Islam

- “I am in your own souls! Why see ye not? In every breath of yours am I.” (Qur'an)
- “God's Consciousness envelopeth all things. He doth pervade and include all things and beings.

Wherever you may be, He is with you.” (Qur'an)

Sufi

- “He who is absent far away from God—his heart can only say: 'God is' somewhere; he who has found the Loved One in himself—for him God is not He, nor Thou, but I.” (Sufi writings)

Buddhist

- “This very mind is the Buddha.” (Mumonkan 30)
- “Every being has the Buddha nature. This is the self.” (Mahaparinirvana Sutra 214)

Zen Buddhist

- “Why not seek in one's own mind the sudden realization of the original nature of True Thusness? . . . If we understand our minds and see our nature, we shall achieve Buddhahood ourselves.” (The Platform Scripture 30)

Taoist

- “Find the Tao in yourself and you know everything else.” (Kwan-Yin-Tse)

Sikh

- “Why do you go to the forest in search of God? He lives in all and is yet ever distinct; He abides with you, too. As fragrance dwells in a flower and reflection in a mirror, so does God dwell inside everything; seek Him, therefore, in your heart.” (Adi Granth, Dhanasari, M.9)

Jain

- “May He abide always within my heart, the Supreme Self, the One God of all gods; transcending all this-world's ephemera by deepest meditation reachable!” (Amita Gati, Samayika-patha)

Hindu

- “I, O Gudakesha, am the Self, seated in the heart of all beings; I am the beginning, the middle, and the end of all beings.” (Bhagavad Gita 10:20)
- “I am the True, the Real, Brahma. That thou art also. The heart of man is the abode of God.” (Upanishads)

Even though the religious scriptures affirm that god is immanent, in fact, the source of our very being, many of us are still not convinced that god is attainable. Why? Because religions today do

not seem to follow what is in their original scriptures. Instead of helping us to realize god directly, as is described in the scriptures, religious institutions place themselves as our intermediaries. We have been conditioned to believe that our pastors and our churches have the only direct line to god.

It is not really in the best interest of religious institutions to help us experience god directly. If they were successful in this endeavor, they would soon be out of business. If a retailer gave his customers a way to buy his products at his cost, then where would he be? If customers can buy wholesale instead of retail, then you cut out the middleman. This is bad for retail business.

The following divine-revelation methods are a direct affront to religious institutions everywhere. My message: Anyone can have direct spiritual experiences and two-way conversations with god without going through any church, scripture, pastor or religion. What a revolution!

THE SECRET

In keeping with my revolutionary insurrection, I'm going to reveal a supreme secret right now to everyone—how anyone can contact and experience god directly, right now.

Why guard this secret? Do we really have to continue struggling for lifetimes, seeking a glimpse of god, living in caves, practicing renunciation and austerities, giving up wealth, power and all material possessions, fasting, praying, straining to attain pretzel body positions, chasing after cult leaders and gurus? Or are we ready to just have the direct experience of god right now?

Perhaps I should guard the secret. Maybe manufacture an aura of great mystique around myself. Dole out my precious wisdom crumb by crumb, charging enormous fees for each further initiation into the “arcane mysteries.” I could advertise myself as a mysterious personality who dwelt in an ashram for 33 years (which I actually did, by the way). Perhaps I could wear purple silk robes lined with gold embroidery, calling myself by a special name that was given to me by some high being. Maybe call myself an alien walk-in of the sixteenth-dimensional hierarchy

