

NOTES FROM BOOKS

By William Samuel

The Awareness of Self Discovery

William Samuel

CHAPTER 2

The Hereness And Nowness of Reality

I do not know of a better way to begin a discussion of the Truth than to call attention to the *here* and *now* of conscious awareness. Our "work" in the Absolute begins with the hereness and nowness of the conscious *awareness* presently reading these words. Awareness is self-evidently ALL-inclusive. Our "beginning" has to do with the perfect ALLNESS that ALL, GOD, ISNESS is!

THE SINGLENES OF HERE AND NOW AWARENESS

This here-and-now is perfect. All we are *actually* concerned with is this here and now. The Christian era began with the words, "The time is fulfilled; the kingdom of heaven is at hand." What is this but the statement that Heaven, Harmony, Perfection are *here* and *now* the Fact? Consider this "here" and "now" a moment: *When* do we read these words? When do we look across the way and see a friendly face? Or any face? When do we see children scampering with their toys? NOW is the "time" that "seeing" takes place. Seeing is NOW. When do we *hear* the sounds of children at play? When do we hear the voices of friends, the sounds coming from the television, the rustle of leaves underfoot? NOW. Hearing is ever NOW. When do we catch the smell of breakfast bacon frying or feel the touch of a hand? NOW is the time of all tangible experience, isn't it? Tangibility is NOW—not yesterday, not tomorrow, not even the next moment, but NOW. (And where is the tangible "demonstration" so many are looking for? In the tangible *now* of *this* experience.)

Now consider: *where* is this conscious experience going on? Where do we do all this seeing and listening and experiencing? Not somewhere else—but HERE. And not another time but NOW. The tangible aspect of conscious awareness is ever HERE and NOW.

Listen again: the here and now are present as this consciousness reading these words. *This* is the here-and-now-consciousness that individual Identity is! And this is the only one we are ever concerned with. This is the one we "put in order." *This* is the eye from which we remove the beam.

Actually we have never been concerned with *another* conscious awareness. Even when we think we have been confronted with "another" experience of son, daughter, husband, wife, friend, partner, associate, leader, national figure, potentate, king, Christ Jesus or the hosts of heaven, hell and the universe, the knowledge of these figures and the consciousness of their actions are always *this* conscious awareness even now examining these words! They are everyone included "within" and "as" this here and now consciousness that says, "I am!" Who can deny that consciousness lives forever as itself, here and now the eternal moment and infinite place of all that we call "our own" Identity-Experience?

"But, Mr. Samuel, my here-and-now is so limited."

The here is infinitely more than a point in space and the now is so much more than a moment in time, despite education's declaration to the contrary. Illumined consciousness reveals ("illuminated consciousness" is simply unbound, uninhibited, childlike awareness freed of personal possession) an *expanding* consciousness—an expanding here-ness and now-ness such that we find the structures of space-time losing their grip and letting us go. Youth reappears *tangibly!* Love blooms anew.

Consequently, simple honesty demands that we come in from a disproportionate time in the boondocks of the not-here and not-now, from the agonizing world of fear we create for ourselves by the too long sojourns into the past or the future. Notice that even these sojourns are now-experiences because the resurrection and reliving of memories is done in the now. We make plans and calculations in the now. We dream in the now. We have missed many tangible wonders in our here and now while wrestling with the intangible dreams of a not-now or worrying about events that are not here.

THE BEGINNING

Enlightened philosophy often speaks of finding the beginning and staying there. The beginning for us is this present here and now *awareness*. "Take no thought for the morrow," said the one called Jesus. Sufficient unto this day, this NOW ... let us get the beam out of THIS eye, this here and now awareness I am, then shall we see clearly ... Perfection is even NOW spread over the face of the land ... Beloved, NOW are we the Awareness of Mind. Coming home to the here and now "it doth not *yet* appear what we *shall* be," but we "see" unfolding consciousness AS IT IS (because we *are* unfolding consciousness) and not as it appears in the dreams of a not-here, not-now.

Our activity begins with a "coming home" from the far country of not-here and not-now. We "return" to the fact of this here and now awareness ITSELF that presently includes these words. We end the tortuous meanderings of the prodigal and leave the pig sties of his far country. We make a personal discovery of the present consciousness being Identity. This is where we *stay*. Said Jesus, "Blest is he who shall *stand* at the beginning, and he shall know the end and shall not taste death." Said Laotse, "The Sage is the one who has found the beginning and then does not wander from the ways of the ancients." Here is the "secret place." This NOW is the Shekinah. This here and now consciousness is the Holy of Holies in which nothing enters to make a lie.

Oh, but the action of "remaining" here is not the lethargic task one might think. For myself, I became aware quickly and painfully of the old nature's reluctance to give up the ghost. I was sorely shocked at the tenacity of old habit and the lingering smell of smoke. I had to bring myself back time and again to that place where, in actuality, Awareness had never left. I had to bring attention back repeatedly to the conscious recognition of a perfect awareness, the real and only fact of now.

THE NOW IS NEW

Happy new Now, reader. This year, this day, this moment is *new*. The life that reads these words is God's consciousness of being—an eternal Identity about the business of Self-discovery, Self-contemplation and consideration, Self-communion and enjoyment. Awareness is Mind's Self-functioning, not the *personal* activity of one called Bill, Jack, Mary or Jane.

Suppose we resolve to "begin" this New Now looking "with the eyes of God" at the majesty and wonder Isness-as-us is. Let us further resolve to let go, as persistently as we can, Bill's, Jack's, Mary's or Jane's view of things. To do so is to find ourselves letting go the "old man's" fears, frustrations and confusions. To do so is to find ourselves looking at a tangible harmony on the here-and-now-scene—a harmony we can see even when others *won't*. To do so is to live a deep

and abiding JOY that cannot be taken from us even if our personal opinions and their pleasures appear to be.

The musician begins with the principle of music, not the discord. The mathematician begins with the principle of his science, not the error. WE BEGIN AS THE IMMACULATE, PRISTINE, PURE AND PERFECT IDENTITY WE ARE ALREADY, not the personal sense of things, not the world's ideas, opinions and judgments of things. We "begin" with God, the ALL that Isness is, and rejoice at the wonders this ever new view reveals. We LET that Mind *be us* which IS the awareness of the Christ Truth we are.

Reader, I write these words so that during the coming pages we may study together from a common ground—the absolute totality and aloneness of this single, simple and perfect Awareness-we-are. You shall find that an honest selfless examination of Awareness discloses perfection *already* at hand, merely awaiting our acknowledgment and honest action in accordance.

For additional study on this subject see A GUIDE TO AWARENESS AND TRANQUILLITY; Page 9 - 26; page 36, the selection Happiness is Here; Page 38, the selection About Books.

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