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 SINGleness 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
("illumined consciousness" is simply unbound, uninhibited, childlike awareness freed of personal
possessorship) an expanding consciousness—an expanding hereness and nowness 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.