

Seeking: Active-Seeking (Asceticism), Passive Seeking (Resignation/Waiting) and Peace

The following is an exploration based on the expression of Tony Parsons. [Please see www.theopensecret.com]

The nature of the human at this present time in history is one of the seeker. There is a constant seeking in the modern human which indigenous people have no sense of. This seeking or striving takes many forms and is often very misunderstood because it can be hidden within particular activities.

Let's look further at the three situations Active-Seeking (Asceticism), Passive Seeking (Resignation/Waiting) and Peace:

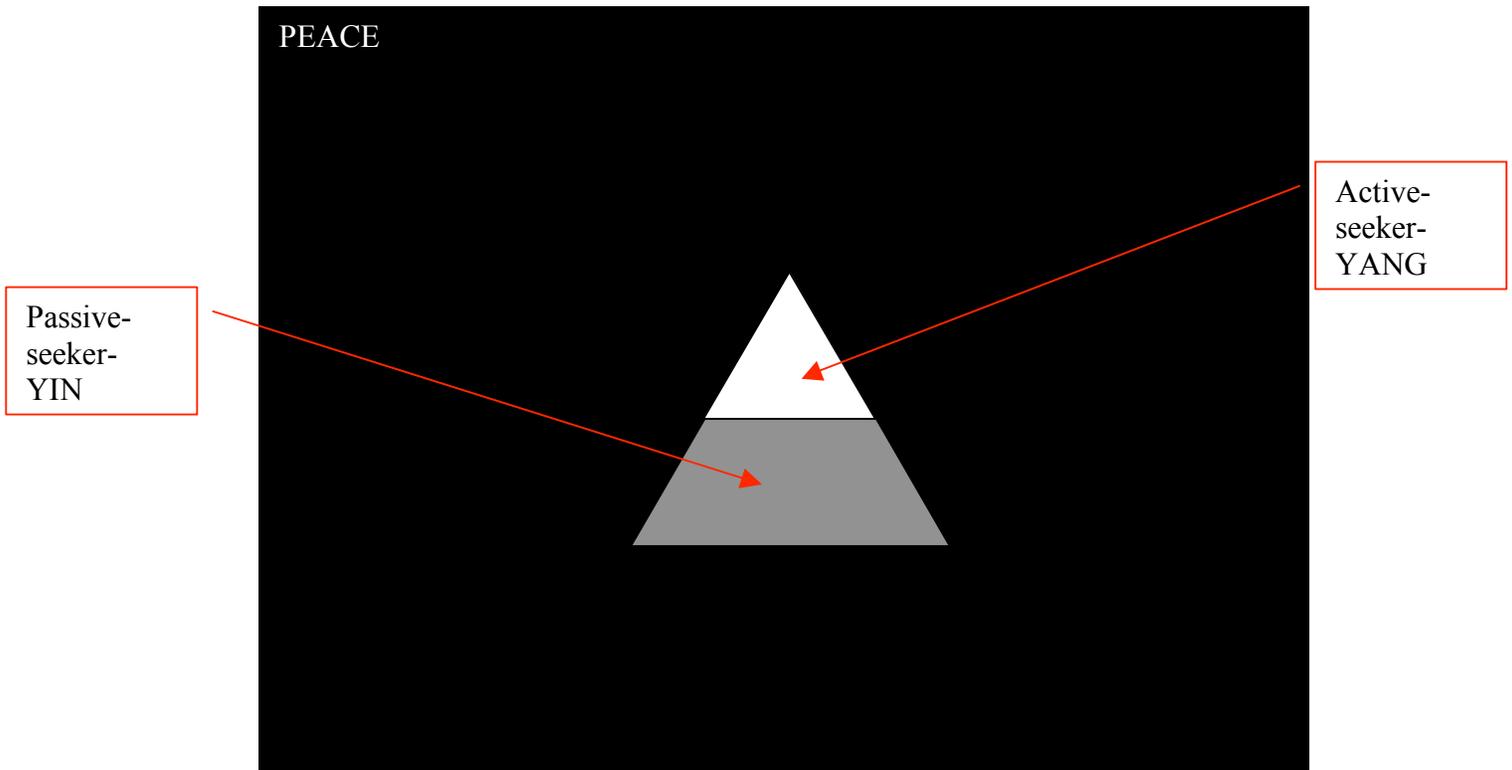
Active-seeking, which means seeking with an intent to find something, either a pot of gold, a person, or enlightenment - all of these things are perpetually looked for by the seeker. To a greater or lesser extent, active-seeking is what most people are involved with, from the monk to the drunk and from the supposed "higher" to the supposed "lower" strata of society. Buddha suggested that in fact it mattered not whether one was rich or poor, the nature of the awfulness of seeking for something "unfindable" was still the same - which he described as suffering. Suffering is such that there is an illusion of a "me" being separate from a "you" and the whole of the universe, a deeply-embedded sense of separation or brokenness which needs to be "fixed" and as such a deep intrinsic panic or anxiety to "fix" this believed-in/ perceived problem.

However, the big "joke" is that actually this separateness is unreal, it is something imagined and passed on from generation to generation, as in the frantic transference of a "hot-coal" from person to person, until the ripeness of realization that the coal can now be dropped. This doesn't happen through any intended action or striving to "let-go", it simply occurs through the nature of the human being growing to a point of clarity. In fact there is no way to "get there", as it's all in the hands of Nature, which is "us".

Active-seeking is often best illustrated in the big cities, in the form of gathering of worldly goods and financial expansion. This can be easily judged to be the "cause" of the problem, but actually this symptom has been around since suffering began, it is the expression of dualism, overt and obvious, clear and neon-bright, right in your face, there's no mistaking it. However the more insidious and internalized expressions of this are found at what seem to be the opposite end of the spectrum, in the monastery, in the religious sacrament, in the hierarchically-dominant practitioner of medicine, in the scientist, in other words in all those areas where seeking is taking place for the "good of all humans", for the "benefit of mankind" or for some ethical or "higher" purpose - exactly the same process as the financier whose head is pushed up against the glass ceiling of his/her ego. This is all fetishism and ascetism, all are extreme forms of desperately seeking inwards or outwards, all goal-orientated. We can call this active-seeking in its myriad expressions.

Even less acknowledged is passive-seeking, wherein lies a suspicion or doubt that the seeking process isn't what it's all cracked up to be. There is a realization that going down paths set in stone and "attempting" to "do" something different is useless as it's all in the hands of "fate" so ultimately "what's the point". This is the typical situation of a person believing Non-action to literally be no-action or passivity. This brings about stagnation or resistance, because the person has come to the end of the line of believing in the process of active-seeking as it doesn't seem to get them anywhere. However this does not equate to dropping the hot coal. A person who is actively-seeking is constantly trying to do something with the coal to prevent it from burning their hands, whereas the passive-seeker thinks "oh well, I can't do anything about this so I guess I'll just 'deal' with the pain". The active-seekers tell the passive-seekers: "you should be more active, you won't get anywhere with that attitude!" The passive-seekers feel further alienated, believing even more firmly that active-seeking isn't the way, especially coming from people who are so "judgmental" - not realizing of course that that in itself is a judgment.

We could say that seeking as a whole expression is yang but within this there are yang-active and yin-passive expressions:-



In the above diagram the larger triangle represents all of humanity (overall yang), the top and bottom are the yang-yin expressions of the seeking states, *active or passive*. Backing and the origin of this process of *seeming* dualism, is the nature of peace of Oneness which is always behind this, not only the constant source from which all the expression of the human emerges but also the seeker in its spectra of expressions. The seeker's question is always: "what do you do about it?". If there is an answer to this, either of being active

or of waiting for change to occur, both of these can be said to be within the same notion. The passive yin process is not expressive and so is more concealed in society. It creates an inner pollution of stagnation. The active yang process has extensive and obvious expression in the world and society and makes up most of what we see around us, thus creating external pollution. Inner stagnation/pollution or outer aggression/pollution are on the same continuum, it makes no difference. So there is Peace or Oneness backing everything, in everything, the source of everything. Everything is in fact the expression of Peace, at this point it's just making the pattern we call "suffering" and the illusions surrounding this, but without goal or reason. As a general tendency the yang-active process resolves itself naturally by tensions mounding till an explosive breaking point at which there is total dissolution with "self" and so its end. With the passive-yin it is a slow dissolving into the background, the "self" becomes more and more "invisible" till it ends. The yin is more chronic the yang more acute. Always be it before or at death the process of "self" identity ends and Oneness is seen to be all there is.

The process of change is irresolvable for the mind of the *apparent* seeker, in its desperate bid for "survival" through identifying itself as separate, thereby preserving all-it-knows in the idea of "I am". Without this there is an Unknown, which is feared, because it is long-forgotten. Similarly, the first time you go down a water-chute as a child, you don't know what's at the bottom – the place you ultimately arrive at is unexpected but intrinsically liberating and celebrative.

The above is simply an explanation of how human beings can be viewed and the various forms of seeking and how we can hide from reality by being active or passive. The Tao Te Ching of Lao Tzu speaks of Wu-Wei or non-intended natural action, which is simply behaviour similar to that of an infant or animal without a "self" to reflect upon or any need to go through the process of "understanding". Buddha explains it as the "Middle-way" which is not a "way" at all but the point of ripeness when the "hot-coal" is let go and "all there is" is sitting under a tree. This was not Buddha's "method", it was the end of his process of active-seeking and the resultant realization of intrinsic peace, none of it by-his-hand so to speak.

As we go through life it becomes increasingly clear that the spiritual (or other) heroes we have historically worshipped or exalted to hierarchical status are not people to be emulated or seen as "examples of how to live", but actually they are simply manifestations of nature expressing *as they are*. Realization of the futility of hero-worship can only come at a point of natural ripeness. The process of seeking, actively inwards or outwards, or passively in waiting, is simply a continuation of the same old process, which is in fact monotonous and hypnotic, and ends simply when it is ripe to. When the hands are burned and one feels the pain one cannot help but to drop the coal.

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