

Never-Never land: The place “I” can’t go, but which has never been left.

The word “never” always seems remote and intangible, something that is mysterious by nature and indefinable, something we are not really sure even exists. To the individual “never” is an arguable point, something that may or not be believed-in, but rarely is the concept actually swallowed whole.

J.M. Barrie’s “Peter Pan” is a genius metaphor for this: “Never-land” cannot be accessed by the adult perspective of “self” which closes down the possibility of Never-land existing at all. In many ways “self” has to disintegrate before Never-land is seen.

This of course is a time-less metaphor, as is the garden of Eden. There is always a situation of seeking, but when we recognise that we seek something which was never lost we realise it is the hallucination of the seeking process itself which obscures true reality.

Tony Parsons points to the process and the nature of suffering or seeking. (please see <http://www.theopensecret.com>) While the message is clear that the “self” or “I” cannot understand the nature of reality through “working it out” in order to be free of the trap of “self”, paradoxically the words “impossible”, “infinite” or “never” are totally unheard by the seeking process which can go on indefinitely. (please see the BBC film on the nature of the mathematicians who sought to find “infinity” - “Dangerous Knowledge”: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cw-zNRNcF90>) It’s not that the listener is stupid or forgetful but that the whole mode of seeking lies within a box or a parameter from which one cannot see out. The possible implication of “never” throws the idea of “self” into a spasm of fearfulness that “my world” is crumbling. The fear that this engenders causes either blocking, total avoidance or very clear rejection of the whole possibility of truly getting to the point of “never”. Everything around us fuels this process, suggesting that we are separate individuals with free will and choice and that the “self” is an absolute and real thing.

So a circular process occurs: within the box of “self” we reach the wall of “never”, the edge of reason, when we hit that and realise it’s there, the walls of the prison become obvious, we search for an escape route at the back of the prison only to find a very similar wall there. As Tony points out “there are many ways to try to find comfort within a prison”, so we perpetually try various forms of escapism in order to escape the trap of “self” but because it always originates from the same perspective of “I am me, a separate thing” it never can see the possibility of anything other than this.

The question always arises “how can I stop this?” and the inevitable answer is that “you” cannot do anything as the “you” doesn’t exist”. This expression of “never” or that “this is impossible for ‘you’ to do anything about” seems so horrendous that it is either totally unheard or dismissed as nonsense, or it is heard to a degree by the “self” eliciting a feeling of total futility and victimization that “nothing ‘I’ do is relevant, I may as well wait for the hand of god,” and so a waiting process occurs, a feeling of being “in limbo”. The more yang way of rejection and driving on is balanced here by the more yin passivity

and stagnation. Of course both of these are a form of or are within yang or activity, both are doing, they are active in the process of avoiding “the real truth of “never””.

If we can look at a broader perspective of the process of the nature of the realization or liberation from the box of “self”, we could consider these continual cycles of suffering, of hitting one’s head against prison walls and going back for more to be part of a much larger process, an unseen unravelling. The nature of nature is such that it is all-inclusive, nothing is ineffective or inefficient, there is nothing outside of the neutrality of Oneness, the polarity of yinyang is always in perfect balance even if we can only see one side of the see-saw. As such even sufferance is as vital as anything else in existence, or as unimportant. At this time in our existence humans are going through a process like a snake shedding its skin or a fruit ripening and falling to the earth, a process of letting go of the un-required “self” complex and a recognition of the natural reality that has always been behind this hallucination or nightmare state.

Whilst we let-go to this “never” every night in deep sleep, this is generally as free as we get. We believe that we awaken from sleep to awakedness but in reality it’s the opposite, we awaken from a sense of No-one to the nightmare of someone. Douglas Harding’s experiments provide ways of questioning or self-enquiry into the nature and experience of the senses and there are other processes of investigating the origin of thoughts, such as meditation, but these are only openings along the seeming process of unravelling. In the end no therapy, method, idea, article or verbal explanation can ever break open the dream of “self” in order that reality may be seen.

However much we may want that wild blackberry to become ripe so we can eat it, it will always unravel in its own time. Natural processes only ever come to fruition without the use of force or intent. The nature of the “self” is to seek but when we realise there is no effective tool with which to do so, we recognise that what is pulling the “strings” is not a separate god or some other hierarchical perspective, but the whole of the energetic of the universe as one organism or as one unraveling process and that the human is merely a drop of water on the wave of life.

None of this is personal, there is no requirement to be or do something better, to see through the illusion, or to get there faster, no way to get other people together to make a “change” for the better or bring the world to rights. That is merely part of the unravelling process where self is still wanting to “try”, to achieve, rather than allowing its total collapse and realising that it is already done. It’s like looking for one’s glasses everywhere, it is only when the brows relax because one just cannot find them and “never will” that they drop into place from their home on your forehead!

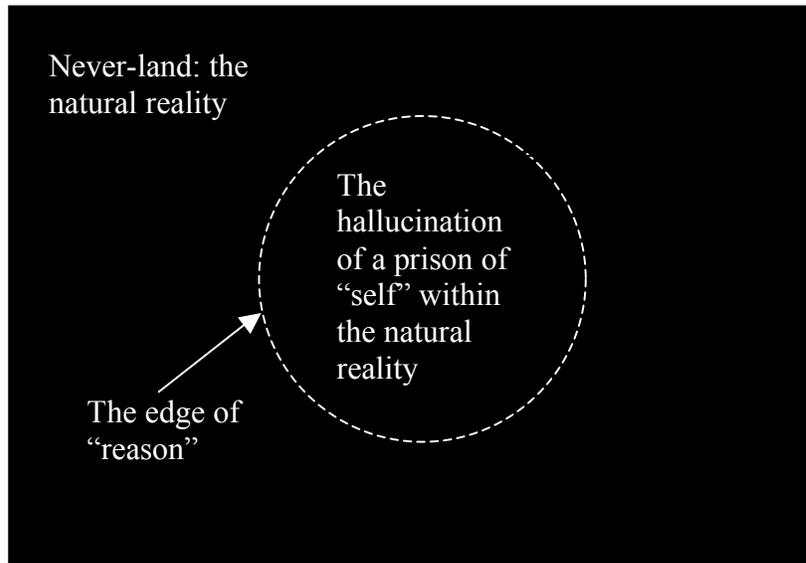
What this also means is that “anything goes”. There is no right or wrong way, everything we see around us, whether it be war-mongers, peace-makers, environmentalists, terrorists, those who extol justice and those who believe it’s all irrelevant, the big egos of “I am everything” and the bigger egos of “I am nothing”, leads to us hitting our heads on the sides of the prison of self because still the original context of “me” the separate “I am” has not changed, the box is still the same. Within the natural foundational reality that

is literally underfoot and totally unseen, it is already One, nothing needs to be “fixed” and what’s more one can’t make anyone “see” this or “get better” for it is always that this process always simply occurs in its own time. Healing occurs in exactly the same way, not through the actions of the practitioner as an individual and the patient as a subordinate “other”, but through that profound, mysterious, non-verbal message which communicates that life is already and always unbroken.

This is why the message that the nature of reality is unchanging, transcending what you think it is or might be or could or should be. As one continues to listen to people like Tony Parsons the essence of the meeting is less about the actual content of the verbal message but more an immersion in it, which encourages the ebbing away of that which feels it has “self” (the seeker). This is not a deification of any individual for no individual exists, so in many ways it is a meeting with that which you already are: no-thing. This can be found in any place at any time but in the human context can be quite a stirring event because in today’s world it is quite a rarity, although gradually becoming less so as the critical mass of the egoic state becomes long overdue and ripe.

As time goes on, instead of being a barrier and a threat, the message of “never” can actually become a point of freedom from the limits of what the “self” is, the gateway to something unknown and other bringing one back to simply living, realizing that whatever one does is actually okay, without restrictions. This goes beyond social norms, conventions, laws and regulations. There is no longer right or wrong. The so-called can of worms scenario of having a society without policing is not the Mad Max vision, but when there is a natural ripeness of anarchy, meaning without forceful intent. The situation of people doing “whatever they want” is already occurring, no legality can hold human nature, no matter what its expression: killer, comedian, actor, doctor; it is all the unconditional expression going through its life cycle. The nature of “self” resolves despite any actions taken towards ending it or avoidance of it. To criticise this is still within the box of “self” and to admire it is also the same thing. Liberation occurs equally to people who have never experienced any message or done any self-enquiry, as it does to those who are dedicated to a path and a practice. There is no better way because the whole process is out of “my” hands. Some might call this grace but this would imply a bestowing of a precious and exclusive gift from a separate god, whereas this is the organism of the universal energy simply shifting from contraction to expansion without any cause or meaning.

It makes no difference whether we reject the concept of “never” or “unknown” or live passively with it, for the disintegration process of self is already underway and unstoppable. The cells of the body of humanity are changing and there is no way to prevent this, the age of “self” or individualism is passing away and a new age is beginning, perhaps it will return again, but for now this is summer moving into autumn.



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