

Lightning Rod: The rare and timeless clarity of U.G Krishnamurti.

There is no category into which U.G Krishnamurti can be pigeonholed. Simply he was a man who “died” while the body was still alive and remained in that expression for the last part of “his” life. What had “died” was the aspect we might call “self”, the illusion that in fact there is a “me” at all. This illusion died and so the sense of “being separate” or “individual” also ended. U.G. plainly called this “the calamity” to clarify its nature rather than the imagined picture of a beatified “enlightenment” that many people seek and never find.

U.G had a life which drew him towards some of the most influential mystic teachers of his time and also came into contact with a number of influential figures yet he remains an almost entirely unknown figure. Fame never held any value for U.G, but more to the point what he had to say was so difficult for most listeners to engage with that in the end they felt exactly as U.G had warned them in the beginning, that they would receive absolutely nothing from speaking to him!

U.G. out and out rejected the teachings of Ramana Maharshi and Jiddu Krishnamurti, whom he met and spoke to directly a number of times through life as they were contemporaries but not relatives. Through his life and the suffering he experienced living from day to day, as we all do, made U.G deeply involved in a seeking process all the way through his 20’s, 30’s and 40’s. Eventually after listening intently to many spiritual teachers he renounced the lot, explaining that simply it was impossible for a person who peddled religion, spirituality or even non-dualist approaches as something that was to be “bought and sold in the market-place” to offer anyone except false expectations.

In this he completely abandoned the whole endeavour of seeking. It is only after this period that he was said to experience that “calamity”, which was 8 days of intense physical pain that spontaneously occurred. He did nothing to gain this as a mystic experience, there was in fact no gain of experience any more. He describes the process as being like an actual physical death in the midst of life, that the body almost goes through a cathartic rigor mortis type experience. He explains that there was nothing “wonderful” about this process but that the resultant situation was what he describes as “the natural state” which is akin to an infant or animal state. The “adult” ideology of “me” and the sense of separation that is contracted around every cell of the body seem to completely die away in the process of the “calamity”.

U.G remained completely different from many of the other so-called non-dualist speakers. He never wrote any books or gave any expression to the outside world about his experience in terms of lectures or teaching people about “liberation”. His simple message, which was given to those who cornered him and asked him questions only, was that the whole idea of spirituality and the notion of enlightenment was a huge and incomprehensible error of understanding on the part of the human and there was absolutely no way for enlightenment to possibly be achieved. He also pointed out that what had happened to him was pure chance, it wasn't something that had a definable process to go through and all his years of seeking were a “burning off” process which were utterly in vain. The actual event of liberation had nothing to do with anything that had gone before, in fact it was the total inversion of what had gone before.

Moreover, U.G. pointed out that it was like a lottery win or a lightning strike, no-one knew when it was going to come about or how, the parameters for it being a particular time and situation of the natural event of “me” having burnt off enough. A natural balancing being at the right point for there to be a letting go of “me” is as impossible to predict as when and where lightning is going to strike next or predicting the exact moment of death.

Many people came to speak with U.G., some people recorded him, some videoed him and others wrote down what he said in conversation which is why we now have some connection to him. He never engaged in publicity or had any interest in sales of his expression at all and would not be engaged in it, which is why all his conversations to this day have no copyright and are all freely available online (<http://www.ugkrishnamurti.org>). Without this all of U.G.’s life process would have died with him. For him this was absolutely as it should be for there was “nothing I have to offer mankind.” The brilliance of this is beyond comparison to any of the other non-dualist speakers alive today.

Whilst all we get are snippets of recordings and some conversations that have been put down about this man’s life, there is always absolute authenticity in his expression that there is nothing for people to understand or to “get”. He expresses this simply by **not** creating “meetings” or “retreats” and thereby not becoming an icon for people to go to and see as being “different” or special. Of course people did this anyway but they did it at their own peril because U.G truly had no interest in that. Why would an infant or animal have an interest in publicizing a book or being a “person in the world”? U.G pointed out in a transliteration of his conversation with film-maker Mahesh Bhatt ***“It [the body] doesn’t want anything except to function.”*** This deep simplicity points to all the various people that I have tried to accumulate in this website - Health Instinct. There is an innate truth in that all the body wants to do is to function, there is a realization that the “me” simply gets in the way of this functioning and creates a world of altruism, morality and the battling political poles of our society. U.G totally deplored all of this and explained that while “self” was part of nature and there was nothing to “fix”, the whole of human culture based on the “self” was also an eyesore to nature. He clearly pointed out that all of human culture was a total travesty and amounted to nothing. Wild nature he understood to be perfect and without the requirement of an added-on “me”, as a result he saw through all the illusions of society and had nothing to do with its ins and outs. He joked that it was more honest to be involved in making money than in being a salesman of spirituality or non-dualist ideology. He pointed out that “those religious people” were simply continuing an illusion that was millennia old and simply said “Tell them that there is nothing to understand.”

Today there are so many people who speak of non-duality and feel the need to express this openly, to talk about it and to engage with it. But once you know something is a dead-end, why would you engage with it further? He reiterates the Tao Te Ching when he pointed out *“When you know nothing, you say a lot. When you know something, there is nothing to say”*. “Know” here of course means the natural state rather than intellectual knowledge. It is only the want to get something that keeps us continually going towards these “masters” and these “explainers” of the human condition. Each move towards them is an attempt to get something and each move away is a recoiling when we don’t. As U.G points out, if there was really a clarity why

would there be any particular interest in speaking to people about something they cannot get and they do not want, for the “me” its own death is the last thing it wants! His point is really to “let it alone”, not to engage with it and so he has nothing to add/offer. His conversations with people end in silence because there is a realization that you can't get anywhere with him, he knows your question before you do and he can see the contracted-mind as though it is a stain on a clear window, he has no interest in it and sees straight through. This is not to defy his expression, but to point out that the infant and animal state have no interest in engaging on this level. He debunked doctors and medicine and pointed out that these people were also often involved in trying to blind the clarity of nature and the body's innate sense of healing or dying if that's what needed to happen. It wasn't in contention for him.

I wouldn't like to classify U.G as anything, but on returning to reading his work after a gap of about 18 years I feel so much that the clarity of his understanding was beyond what I could appreciate at that time. In the processes of my own seeking and being involved in peddlers of spirituality of some kind or another from all over the world one loses sight of the realization that it is all a road to nowhere. U.G's point is that in a sense engaging with people of this kind simply adds to the sufferance of everyday life. Why bother? What does it actually do for you? What do the practices, avidly going to meetings, involvement with people who are “on the path” or “off any path”, what does any of it actually do for your feeling? If there is something truly resonant about it then that's great, but simply playing music together or having a drink down the pub or going running is exactly the same thing, there's no reason to do something unless some inner feeling and want propels you to go towards it.

There is no “should”. There is no requirement to try, or to keep-going, or to keep barking up a tree when a person suggests they are “not selling” but in fact go ahead and sell anyway. When something is clear it is clear all the way through. A dog or a child is authentic, this too is the expression of UG, it isn't trying to fool anyone, it is simply the direct and complete expression of the truth for no-one by no-one.

In a way the fact of him not wanting to engage with people and not delivering a masterpiece booklet on his experiences or putting up a website with his name on it (all that do exist had nothing to do with him, nor were ever condoned by him) expresses exactly that he is one of the only ones for whom lightning really did strike. When the human returns to the natural state they become invisible, they go back to the jungle, back to the simplicity of life, they don't perform or have the need to, they don't go out and fight for their corner or expression and explain that everyone else's is nonsense. They simply point out that they have nothing to say and they leave it at that, then go back to just living simply and most likely close to nature. Our draw back to nature is expressed through the life of Masanobu Fukuoka

(http://www.onestrawrevolution.net/One_Straw_Revolution/One-Straw_Revolution.html)

And our interest in reconnecting to spontaneous bodily expression as expressed in the work of Michizo Noguchi (<http://noguchitaisou.sakura.ne.jp/index.html>) and Haruchika Noguchi (<http://noguchi-haruchika.com/home.html>) are expressions that relate to U.G's point but are of course without the Emptiness that his words come from and as a result they form teachings which of course can lead us to worship.

As U.G. points out, it is only when we no longer want crutches and realize we can walk that there is any kind of freedom. It doesn't have to be a freedom of liberation, part of the burn-off of "me" is the process of seeking for the end of itself and this is perhaps the ultimate deepest layer. Certainly to stop looking towards people as being the answer I think was U.G.'s point, as he explains most beautifully in an interview with Jan Kersschot in 2004:

The intention in studying the lives or the biographies of some of those people whom you think were enlightened is to find a clue as to how it happened to them, so you can use whatever technique they used and maybe the same thing will happen to you. This is what you want. And those people give you some spiritual techniques, some methods which don't work at all. They create the hope that some day it will happen to you. But it will never happen. There is one thing that I am emphasizing all the time: it is not because of what you do or what you don't do that this kind of thing happens. And why it happens to one "individual" and not another – there is no answer to that question. I assure you that it is not the man who has prepared himself, or purified himself to be ready to receive that kind of thing. It is the other way around. It hits. But it strikes at random. It has no cause. All this seriousness about the "spiritual goal" ... Let me tell you that all that wanting leads seekers nowhere. And I have nothing to give. (interview with U.G. Krishnamurti from "This is It" , Kersschot, 2004)

In another conversation he says that *"You have to be saved from the very idea that you have to be saved. You must be saved from the saviours, redeemed from the redeemers."* And I would add, that these saviours and redeemers are all the people that are actually out there making any kind of show about it, for if it is nothing why would life be interested to express this through the natural body?

In another interview in 2007 just before there was a complete death, this time of the physical body, U.G offered his "Swan Song". Herein lies everything that his simple message was, and it is no more than this. Instead of seeking beyond this point U.G suggests the possibility that if we are going to seek, which is inevitable, don't bother seeking it out in people, for the falsehood of the importance of their message is a total misconception. Live and be free of that, is his point, and what will be will be.

My Swan Song

U.G. Krishnamurti

[This piece was dictated by U.G to Louis Brawley in mid-February 2007.]

What I have found of and by myself runs counter to everything anyone has said in any field of human thought. They have misled themselves and misguided everybody. You still fall for all that because if, for instance, you were to change your diet you would die of starvation. But I want to live forever! Can you keep me alive and healthy, the way I have lived for ninety years of my life? No? But that's all that interests me!

When once it throws out everything that has been put in there by your filthy culture, this body will function in an extraordinarily intelligent way. It can take care of everything.

If at any time I accept anything, it is not what the religious people have told me about the way the body functions, but what the medical doctors have found. Yet, what they do not know is immense and they will never know how this body functions.

I have never taken any medicine nor have I ever seen a doctor. All the doctors who have advised me not to live the kind of life I have been living are now dead and gone. There is one exception – once, I had typhoid fever when I lived in Madras. My wife's brother was a top doctor in the General Hospital in Madras. The British had a wing in the hospital for themselves and nobody else was allowed to stay in the rooms in that wing. That year, however, they opened the wing to the general public. So my brother-in-law got me one room in it and another for my family members. In that room my wife and grandmother stayed. Three nurses took care of me taking turns every eight hours for a whole month, after which I walked out.

Although I assert that all doctors should be shot, I don't advise others not to see a doctor. I don't know what I will do if I am in a situation where I want to prolong my life a little longer. So I would never tell others not to see a doctor.

I brushed aside everything born out of human thought. Everything they told me falsified me. And what you are trying to get you can never get, because there is nothing to get.

What you are is a belief; if you let one belief go, you must replace it with another, otherwise, you will drop dead. I am telling you, a clinical death will occur. It is not the near-death experience of those 'near-death' scoundrels.

So you better go and make money and enjoy the fruits thereof.

All those filthy religious people are fooling themselves and fooling everybody, living on the gullibility and credulity of people, making an easy living, selling shoddy pieces of goods and promising you some goodies that they can never deliver. But you want to believe all that nonsense. It's a reflection on your intelligence that you fall for all that crap to which you are exposed.

Nobody has given me the mandate to save you people or save the world. The human species should be wiped out for what it has done to every other species on this planet! It has no place on this planet. If I am sure of one thing, it is that. If it were not for your destructive weapons, you would have been wiped out a long time ago. And you are going to be wiped out, because now others have the means to wipe you out. But you are not going to go gracefully without taking every form of life on this planet with you.

With minimum means you can wipe out the maximum power.

The body knows what it needs to do to survive. If it does not have the means to survive, it goes gracefully. The only reason for this organism to exist is to give

continuity to the human species. Sex is only for reproduction, but you have turned that into a pleasure movement. What else is sex for than reproduction?

The human kind appeared on this planet and it thinks all this has been created for its use. You think you were created for a grander and nobler purpose. The human being is a more despicable thing than all the other forms of life on this planet.

You are just an animal, but you are not ready to accept that. You are not more intelligent than the other animals.

The native intelligence of the human body is amazing. That is all it needs to survive in any dangerous situation in life.

The native intelligence is what you are born with; the intellect is acquired from what they teach you. So, you don't have any words or phrases, or even experiences, which you can call your own. You have to use that knowledge that has been put in there in order to experience anything.

There is nothing to your love: if you don't get what you want, what happens to your, 'I love you darling, dearie, honey bunch, shnookie putsie, sugar britches, petite shu-shu, sugar booger?' If you don't get what you want out of all that, what happens to your lovey-dovey?

The only test for me is money. How free you are with your money? I don't mean, "How wasteful you are with your money?"

I have nothing to lose if the whole thing is wiped out. I have nothing to gain if it remains the same.

The only relationship you have with anybody in this world is "What do I get out of it?" That's all you care about. Other than that, there is nothing to it!

You all fool yourselves thinking that you are going to get something by hanging around me... ho ho ho! You're not going to get a thing because there is no need to get anything from anybody.

You can't fit me into any religious frame. I don't need to fool people and thrive on their gullibility and credulity. Why should I? I'm telling you, you will lose everything! You are not going to get anything from anybody. There is no need for me to say you're not going to get what you want from anyone else either. That you will find out by yourself. But that you can't do either by your own effort or by your volition or by anything you do or do not do. That is not something that happens in the field of cause and effect.

Everything was thrown out of my system. I don't know how I was thrown off the merry go round. I went round and round and round. I was lucky - luck, not in the sense that when you go to a gambling place and win if you're lucky. They put me on a merry go round; I went on and on and on. I didn't have the guts to jump off. I was just thrown off like an animal thrown from the top of a tree. The animal just gets up and runs off.

Fear makes your body stiff and then you will certainly break your limbs. My body is never stiff.

The demand for permanence -- permanent relationships, permanent happiness, and permanent bliss - in any field and in any area of human existence is the cause of human misery. There is nothing to permanence.

So don't be a damned fool! Go and make money. That's the only thing that impresses me – cash on the barrel! I told my grandparents this even as a little boy.

I am in perfect harmony with this world, exactly the way it is.

I will never break the laws, no matter how ridiculous the laws are.

I told Bertrand Russell, "The H-bomb is an extension of your policeman; are you willing to do away with the policeman?"

"You have to draw the line somewhere!" he said. I just said goodbye and walked out.

There is no need to change this world at all; and there is no need to change yourself either.

I am not a sociable man; yet I am not anti-social.

What I am trying to emphasize over and over again is that what has happened to me has nothing to do with the spiritual nonsense they preach; it doesn't have even a teeny weenie bit of spiritual content. It is a physical phenomenon pure and simple. Once this body is freed from the stranglehold of whatever is put in there either by spiritual teachers or secular teachers, or by those scientists and medical technology, it functions in a very efficient way.

At the time I was born, when my mother introduced herself to me as "I am your mommy" and hugged me and kissed me, I apparently kicked her; and she died in seven days after I was born. When they put me into the frame of an enlightened man, they said that the mother of such a child can never have any more children or sex, and that she would die. Actually she died of puerperal fever, but not because she gave birth to an enlightened man. They have to put such people into that frame of giving birth to an enlightened man.

An enlightened man can never have sex because he cannot reproduce another one like him. Once an interviewer on television asked me, "Can't we take your sperm and make a woman pregnant?" I answered, "There is no sperm anymore." Anandamayi stopped having her periods when she was twenty-one, after whatever had happened to her. She was a nice lady. She was a genuine article.

Your birth is not in your hands. You're here because your parents had sex. But I can say now that that your death is in your hands.

There is no meaning in and no purpose to suffering.

If a body is lucky enough to stumble into its natural way of functioning, it happens not through your effort, not through your volition; it just happens, but not by what you do or do not do. It is not even a happening within the field of cause and effect. 'Acausal' is the most appropriate word for it, because a happening can never be outside the field of cause and effect.

If it stumbles into this of and by itself, such a body will be so unique that it will be unparalleled in this world and will function in an extraordinary way. Such a body has never existed before on this planet.

You don't have to take my word for it. Be miserable and die in your misery.

And such a man will be more spiritual than all the other claimants, but not in the ordinary sense of 'spiritual' - that nonsense must never be used. Spirit is only the breath as in "he breathed his last;" the word has nothing to do with the spiritual crap.

Vallecrosia, Italy, February 2007

Also please see:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Vf-Xsr0f4w>

Please also see the brilliantly hilarious documentary on the fake-guru Kumare:

<http://kumaremovie.com/>

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