

This segment and poignant remark should have been included in a previous chapter.
RSSB-A Look (addition to earlier chapter)

What struck me in that experience [*my insert-Sawan Sadan Satsangi flats case*] was the ease with which responsible society people jettisoned their own common sense and humanity when faced with clearly unjust and unethical demands by their Godman leader.

How can such inhumanity be curbed?

Chapter 4-Palace Intrigue

Kirpal Singh and Beas

In Gurudom, spiritual successor is an oxymoron because Gurudoms are about power not spirituality. The only successor is the one who inherits the Palace. Of course intrigues, contention, before and after the event, happen.

In India, freedom of religious expression, founded on the Great Koan, You Are That, is unbridled. Anyone can start a shrine, religious or spiritual Center, and if the man or woman succeeds in attracting followers (and their donations) then he or she is a legitimate success. It is common for such enterprises to become family holy businesses. As example, Punjab has many Deras.

In Sawan Singh's time, Kirpal Singh was providing important support to the Beas enterprise helping with books and preaching and he had developed a respectable status (Preachers who climb to the pulpit are naturally looked up to by the listeners). So when he found out that he was not going into the Palace and since he was interested in getting the importance given a Head of a holy enterprise, he decided to strike out on his own.

[My insert- of course this excerpt may only be of special interest to Beas history geeks, but the principle applies across the board. Also, the following excerpts provide fascinating Punjab historical references].

His claim to spiritual succession was simply a way of taking some of the Beas followers with him and in that he succeeded.

The subsequent letter legal tangle was another attempt by the parties to be one-up and in that Beas succeeded.

I can imagine that a Ruler as part of the Succession machinations sends one of the Contenders into exile so that he can transfer the rule to his family (in this case via a loyal servant) without too much commotion among the Subjects.

But I would imagine that both the Contender being exiled, and the Servant being asked to do the House a favor, would understand exactly what is going on.

Feudal Rule was common in Punjab States during those days and both Kirpal and Jagat would know the game.

Correspondence

[My insert-while this was personal correspondence with Waking Now, there is nothing of a personal privacy nature].

The Mafia is a feudal culture. The boss demands total loyalty, no questions asked, in return for privileges and membership in an exclusive organization. Black money (undeclared money), keeping assets in tested key loyal member's names (blood relatives are conditioned to be particularly loyal) etc., are known practices.

I heard an insider refer to the Radhasoami Mafia. Its interesting how the military culture (Obey, Don't Question, Saint-Soldier) is at the heart of the Sikh movement and its illegitimate (from the Sikh perspective) offshoot, the Beas Radhasoami Dera.

From the Times of India site ([HYPERLINK "http://www.timesofindia.com"](http://www.timesofindia.com) www.timesofindia.com) *[my insert-this correspondence was dated 2001]* I learnt that for some weeks now, there is a huge political outcry in Punjab about a Dera of one Piara Singh Bhaniarawala, who is a Satguru, God Incarnate, to his followers who included Govt Ministers. There was a dispute between orthodox Sikhs who don't believe in God in human form, and the followers at the Bhanairawais Dera. There was violence by some orthodox Sikhs who destroyed a book of the sect, Bhavsagar Granth (The Book about how to cross the worldly ocean). In response, it appears that the Bhaniarawala followers burnt the Sikh Granths (Guru Granth Sahib) at some Gurudwaras.

The Sikh fundamentalists asked, I believe, for murder charges against the destroyers of the Granth, which they regard as the living Guru.

Now the Bhaniarawala Satguru is in jail. There is a judicial inquiry instituted on the whole affair. The Sikh religious leaders are calling the Sikh masses not to associate with the various Sants (Saints and Babas) and their Deras (which of course includes the Beas Dera).

Interesting times.

Chapter 5

Waking Now's comments on spiritual awareness since leaving RSSB and what prompted the departure

The first seed of doubt came to me on picking up Krishnamurti's book Think on These Things, at a US airport. I realized for the first time that there was an important area in my life which I had accepted without my own questioning. That prompted me to learn of my Indian spiritual traditions first through reading whatever I felt like reading and later through travel to whichever places of pilgrimage in India caught my intuition.

I was struck by the grandness of the Indian vision expressed in the Great Sayings such as "You are That" which gave every human being the highest possible inherent value and also by the Eternal Dance of the symbols for Shiva.

I realized clearly that Sikhism was a branch of the Hindu tradition and Radhasoami was a branch of Sikhism and during the process of branching the wholeness of life at the roots was lost.

From there I moved to a study of the Buddhist traditions and realized that the stillness and silence of Buddha and the stillness and silence of Shiva were the same.

I also realized that all effort to obtain spiritual (mental) experiences was a terrible waste of one's time and energy and took one away from the wonderful opportunity to respond attentively to what faced us at every moment coming to us, one by one, always newborn. I shudder at the stories I heard at the Dera of these 'advanced souls' moving about there with their attention in their Guru's form or in some brain sounds, while the precious newborn unique moments slipped away for lack of full attention.

When I finally left RSS Beas and faced cultic wrath, I had a Great Doubt and some anger in what had trapped me in all those years and the habitual attachments just fell away.

I have of course to contend with a diminutive social life because I jettisoned my cult world view and the people there are not comfortable with free thinkers. I have family members who are unwilling to respond to questions about their life from their own true perspective. The mental straightjacket and lack of joy which I see in their life is sad.

I have now settled in the Zen way of living our ordinary life attentively as the most dignified way to live.

From my perspective, hearing the sound is nothing special, maybe your genes dispose you to have that sensitivity.

The shabad Master idea is just another idea, for catching people.

We are all alive, or to put it more obtusely, connected to our life force. That life force is not limited in any way to specific frequencies that may activate one's brain cells and create sounds etc.

We hear sounds, see things, feel the air, water, taste food etc. All are part of the experience of living.

To concentrate on specific frequencies out of an infinity as being very special is to start imprisoning oneself.

That finding out who one is, is an individual journey and all promoted paths are misdirections. That's why the Indian tradition allows a multiplicity of approaches. 'god' is everywhere and can be touched everywhere and in everything.

Chasing Enlightenment

You are quite right. Hard earned understanding is invaluable.

Ramana Maharishi is reported to have said that when you realize it was all a false chase and 'you yourself were It', you will laugh.

There is a difference between seeking on one's own to understand life, and getting caught by a Guru to become a follower and believer.

In the first case, one remains alert and aware and fresh and finds joy in the discoveries.

In the second, one starts moving on the Royal Road to Dumbness, losing the appreciation of the beauty and vitality of one's life.

For me, there is no enlightenment experience to run after. Our daily life is the wonderful enlightenment experience. When we are fully attentive to it.

The question is when, if ever, do we sink into this understanding that there is nothing to achieve, and then, relax into our everyday life.

Different people have different episodes which cause all 'notions' of enlightenment given by others to just fall away. Then they settle down.

There is no one who has traveled down the road we are traveling because the 'road' to our awakesness is the whole space around us.

At any time we may look back on our own footprints and see the unique trail we have left.

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Krishnamurti pointed people in a Zen way towards living a life of freedom, free from the mental conditioning continually imposed on us by Societal leaders. The Institutional Spiritual Leaders are to be specially guarded against because we are conditioned to become trusting of them.

His message was: See and understand everything by yourself. Do not succumb to external pressures and enticements. Be Free.

He really taught nothing. Simply said, Live your own life sensitive of everything around you. Our mental freedom does not come from books or talks or other people, it comes when we connect with the core of our own Self.

To allow that inner connection so we can truly be ourselves in our ordinary life is for me the greatest practice.

A Spiritual Institution, which claims to guide its followers toward the Ultimate Truth, surely must show itself as honest and truthful and having the highest standards of ethics and morality.

I remember hearing a talk by Joseph Tussman, UC emeritus Prof., who said that for him Immorality was:

When you use others for yourself.

When you get somebody to do something for your interest and purpose.

He said that was all the morality and ethics that he was interested in.

I found that such a clear window to see one's actions.

On that basis, the Immorality of the Godmen, I know, is monumental, for they are steeped in self interest.

I think in order to be mesmerized, we have to allow the Personality to hypnotize us. In a group setting where others are allowing this, a lone Individual may become susceptible to the Group consciousness.

Normally hallucinations refers to dream like visions so we would not emphasize sounds.

My view is that visions or sounds are produced by brain activity. They come and go. The power that experiences everything while inhabiting our body is our real self.

Knowing that Power, our real self, is it...