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abcd14. Understanding Life as a Three Edged Sword

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Some Philosophical Ruminations

Basic understanding first.

The observation that humans tend to polarize into two subgroups has some merit. We go through life wandering and weaving but, mostly just 'being', with no discernible goal.

The FIXERS, fix on the 'material world', and make "things" their 'be all and end all' for living. These people hunt for possessions and power and have varying levels of success. Comfort and 'nobility', in the materialistic sense, are their outward expression.

The second sub group, are the BAITs. Those who eschew the material world and gravitate toward the sublime. A world not implicated to the physical 'material void' is the quest of this group. A reversal of ideas in the traditional sense. The material 'stuff' is the 'void' and the metaphysical 'stuff' is the real.

The concept of Maya or Illusion is applied to the materialistic realm and these people have their search contained within the realms of the 'mind', in the metaphysical sense, and the ethereal or 'other body, other world' concepts. Dangling bait to entice others into their fold is their outward expression.

(As a footnote it is interesting to note that chiropractors have a similar polarity amongst their group. This has traditionally been called the battle between the MIXERS and the STRAIGHTS.)

Focussing on what each group has added to humankind reveals some startling observations. The materialistic people have shown a steady production or 'addition' to their field over the millennium.

The ethereal on the other hand have shown a distinct lack of progress over the last several centuries or so. Nothing new has been created, nothing old has been clarified. This is a telling tale indeed. The young are attracted to this group but, this lack of progress problem is so great and so 'telling' that it is the reason that many decide to leave this group altogether. Time has stood still for them.

Time after all, is just the manifestation of change. When molecules or atoms move, they change. That is what we see and interpret as time. Rightly, our perspective on this observation has

a part to play in what we observe and the 'relativity' concepts help us understand our position in the grand scheme of things. But, if we want to make time stand still then we have to stop all movement and cause all death. The yoga goal to achieve 'Union' uses this approach in a search for union with God.

The nitty gritty of the three edged sword.

One edge of the sword is invisible. Oooh does that mean it is in the BAIT category? Not at all. The two obvious forces that make up a human being are the decisions and attitude of that human being.

The decision category encompasses the 'action'. A decision without action is no more than a dream. So the decisions (actions) a person makes will define that person.

But, so will the attitude. The approach that a person takes to making decisions and actions, will define another aspect of that person. It is pretty hard to 'distill' the human condition down to fewer parts than these two. In fact these two by themselves are still inadequate to explain completely the 'phenomena of the human existence'. That is 'predict a human'.

The Third Factor

The three edge sword is used to protect or to take a way and cut down. People have the choice to use either blade of this sword.

The THIRD EDGE is chance, or luck. Some people think they can control this third edge but alas, it is an illusion for no control is possible. That is why you do not see special groups of people all winning lotteries around the world. No control is possible.

We must refine our attitude and hone our decisions within the context of chance. We must be very careful not to blame chance for our poor decisions or poor attitude. You don't 'make' good luck. You make good decisions. Good decisions may lead to positioning you closer to where good luck might shine on you, but the decisions themselves do not 'cause' good luck.

So there you have it. We have a triangle of Decisions, Attitude, and Chance. The Three Edged Sword. All edges can cut you down. All can protect you. Use them wisely.

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