



The Spiral Path...

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The Gayatri Mantra

Dedicated to Savitur, the Vedic Sun God, Gayatri is also the name of the Goddess of the Vedantic Mantra in which the verse is composed. Invoking the universal Brahman as the principle of knowledge and the illumination of the primordial Sun, the mantra is extracted from the 10th verse of Hymn 62 in Book III of the Rig Veda:

Unveil, O Thou who givest sustenance to the Universe,
from whom all proceed, to whom all must return,
that face of the True Sun now hidden by a vase of divine light,
that we may see the truth and do our whole duty
on our journey to thy sacred seat.

W. Q. Judge translation

Change

In an attempt to stay positive and try and help others let the light in, it is important to be mindful of our Path. With changes of late, there seems to be more attacks on those with differing views, and a profound amount of untruthful and deliberately offensive banter. Remember that our path is never straight or straightforward. Personal gain, profit, patriotism or nationalism, and perhaps above all, selfishness, fuels these manifestations of *separation*. We have an underlying oneness as a human family. In fact, many religions actually support separateness of humanity by proselytizing their doctrine as the only one, the only way; such that all others would be wrong. There are *many Ways*. All the major religions' founders taught at their core the same thing ... Love. Love for everyone, *including* your enemies. *Separateness and selfishness are not Love*. Love is compassion and forgiveness and working to unify our disparate world. We are working to unify all classes, all colors, all persuasions. We are working to teach our children *by example* what right and wrong look like. The way to live our lives with *cooperation*, and not *competition*.

This goes beyond allowing our diverse humanity to live their own lives peaceably, without insults, slander, or hate.

Hatred and separation are not the way. *Love is the Way*.

Love!

Do not allow discouragement to come in.
Time is needed for all growth, and all change,
and all development.
Let time have her perfect work and do not stop it.

W. Q. Judge, *Letters That Have Helped Me*, II:2



Eaton Canyon
by Ingrid Landers

Mutability

[“We are as clouds that veil the midnight moon”]

Percy Bysshe Shelley

I.

We are as clouds that veil the midnight moon;
How restlessly they speed and gleam and quiver,
Streaking the darkness radiantly! yet soon
Night closes round, and they are lost for ever:—

II.

Or like forgotten lyres whose dissonant strings
Give various response to each varying blast,
To whose frail frame no second motion brings
One mood or modulation like the last.

III.

We rest—a dream has power to poison sleep;
We rise—one wandering thought pollutes the day;
We feel, conceive or reason, laugh or weep,
Embrace fond woe, or cast our cares away:—

IV.

It is the same!—For, be it joy or sorrow,
The path of its departure still is free;
Man's yesterday may ne'er be like his morrow;
Nought may endure but Mutability.

If we are to help humanity in a new way
we must begin to think in a new way.

Katherine Tingley

Living in Changing Times

Alice Yetman

For the past two years, life for many people has changed dramatically. Unprecedented events have turned people's lives upside-down; some have been affected in almost all spheres of modern life. Not only have their personal freedoms been curtailed, but employment security has also been in jeopardy. Polarization, dissension and distrust have split people into different 'camps' of opinion, which have led to rifts in families and other relationships. Naturally there have been negative psychological effects on both adults and children. Uncertainty and fear have led to widespread unease.

Fear can become a dominating force in one's psyche; it is destructive and negatively influences our actions and thoughts, even our well-being. It springs from the human ego, for at the root of fear, lies a need for self-preservation. Fear stunts our spiritual growth; it blocks the positive, higher and benevolent stream of influence from our Higher Consciousness from expression – it is an obstacle to the flowering of compassion, of altruism, of love. Armin Zebrowski elaborates further:

"Fear is a feeling of our human ego which comes when it is drawn down to the animal soul, when the thinker is governed by the strong feelings of its lower desire nature. Look at the consequences of fear: the body pours out hormones, the mind is veiled, all senses concentrate on the one point which could harm the human ego. In vain, the soul tries to bring the person back into a human state of mind. Fear governs the person; it makes us incapable of doing what is reasonable. This refers not only to concrete fears – such as a bus running us down – it concerns daily life. We often fail because we are not courageous enough to take the necessary and right step even when we know what is right, because we are afraid of the consequences of our actions. We often fail because we do not trust our ability to finish the job due to our projections which make the ego believe we would look ridiculous or unprepared.

"But how can we approach the overpowering feeling of fear? This, at least, is clear: thoughts mold people. Therefore, we must use the power of ideas, of imagination, and above all the power of intuition, to free ourselves from the influences of the animal soul and turn to the spiritual aspects of ourselves again. As G. de Purucker says, 'Love is a mighty power. Perfect love casteth out all fear. He whose heart is filled with love and pity never knows what fear is; there is no room for it in his heart. Love all that lives and you then ally yourself with invincible cosmic powers and you become strong, and spiritually and intellectually clairvoyant. You will never fear anything in proportion as your heart is filled with love and understanding, because love – perfect love – bringeth understanding. You will then never fear poverty; you will never fear.' "

(*Sunrise* magazine, Aug/Sept 1998)

What then is love? G. de Purucker eloquently defines it thus:

"Love is the cement of the universe; it holds all things in place and in eternal keeping; its very nature is celestial peace, it's very characteristic is cosmic harmony, permeating all things, boundless, deathless, infinite, eternal. It is everywhere, and is the very heart of the heart of all that is."

(*Golden Precepts of Esotericism*, chap. 5)

To remain confident and fearless of our individual path into the unknown, the future, we need to hold fast to a few guidelines, which, rooted in the Ancient Wisdom, have for eons been the touchstone and mainstay for mankind to live by. It is the compass by which we are able to find our 'true north', as we journey through life. There are a number of pointers to bear in mind, all of which have their root in love.

As we know, there can be no 'chance' event, or set of circumstances – ever. The laws of Nature are immutable, and apply throughout the Universe. One such law, fundamental to the operations of the Universe, is Karma, the law of action and consequent reaction. It therefore stands to reason that our current circumstances are due to karmic consequences, of actions taken sometime in our past. The fact that so many of our number are affected by these conditions surely means that we are collectively responsible for deeds done in our past, a past which may stretch back many lifetimes, possibly even back to Atlantean times. If we can accept this profound reality, we are halfway to understanding and finding a more tranquil state of mind. And therein lies the solution: there is something to be learned from these conditions and the sooner we learn to accept and turn this 'unhappy state of affairs' into something good and meaningful, not for ourselves, but for our fellows, the sooner shall we level the imbalance we created by our prior actions.

This understanding makes us realize that we cannot blame 'the others, or the powers-at-be' who, we may believe, are creating the havoc around us, angry and hopeless as we may feel at the injustice of their actions. But equally, these 'others' are not absolved from karmic consequences themselves; even though one could argue that they appear to be the instruments of karmic restitution. The only way to change our circumstances is to change ourselves; this is the only aspect of life we have complete control over – though change for the greater good for all is meant here – *not* for our own selfish benefit.

We are surely able to change ourselves. We have the free will to listen to and to follow the guiding voice within. Of course we need to recognize that this Voice, call it our intuition, is to be wholly trusted. It is our Higher Consciousness, which is the *Ātma-Buddhi-Manas*, the higher trio of our septenary constitution; it is cosmic in essence, a spark of the Boundless All, the Divine, which radiates into the lower aspects of our constitution. The intuition is therefore the seat of true discernment and judgement – of what holds true, or not – of moral and ethical integrity. Many of us lay too much emphasis on and importance in the intellectual aspect of our being, the brain-mind of day-to-day thoughts, preferring to trust its directives only. But the mind alone is not the pinnacle of our being. The mind is easily and often swayed by one's self-centered desires and thus our true and accurate discernment is clouded.

Consider the aspect we call our attitude. What is our general attitude to our circumstances? Herein, we again, have the choice and the power to have a positive or a negative outlook. This is closely linked to the aspect of gratitude. Often while we focus our attention on the negative, which is another emanation of the self-centered ego, we lose sight of the things we should be grateful for. Should we ever consider making a list, it would doubtless become endless! In a state of gratitude, however, negative thoughts and feelings diminish in strength and fade away, thereby opening up our consciousness to the positive and the higher, creative and selfless urges of our being.

We should never lose sight of the fact that there is a hierarchy of highly evolved men, our Elder Brothers, who, ever vigilant, keep watch over developments on our planet, and most importantly, who generate beneficial influences over all its inhabitants. While they cannot change the processes of karma, a steady stream of compassionate influence is generated by them, strengthening too, those many brave, ordinary individuals who work constantly towards the benefit of all humanity. By heeding the prompting of our consciousness, and in turn thinking and acting in accordance, we are not only aligning with these Masters of Wisdom, our Brothers, but also strengthening their beneficent energies for the greater good for all.

When we strive to live, act and think along these lines, the natural result is a change in our awareness, and a higher degree or expansion of consciousness results, which is reflected in our actions and utterances. Thus we become an example for others to follow and emulate. And so love and compassion radiate further outward, touching the hearts of others, ever expanding like the ripples in a pond.

Change is a constant phenomenon observable throughout the universe. Uncomfortable as it may seem at times, one should try to embrace it, by trusting and heeding our Inner Voice, for it is an opportunity for growth and learning, to eventually expand our consciousness as we move ever onward and upward on our evolutionary journey.

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Time and Our Human Destiny

Ingrid Van Mater

Time – what is it? Changeless yet ever changing, always with us, yet ever elusive, it is one of life’s great mysteries. Philosophers through the ages have pondered it and sought to explain it, but in its wholeness it is too complex and enigmatic ever to be reduced to a simple definition. How can it be otherwise? We can only approximate an understanding of it, for we see but a shadow of reality, a small segment of a vast arc.

A few verses from Stanza I of an ancient source of wisdom, the Book of Dzyan, capture the magic of life before the beginning of creation:

The eternal parent wrapped in her ever invisible robes had slumbered once again for seven eternities.

Time was not, for it lay asleep in the infinite bosom of duration.

Universal Mind was not, . . .

Darkness alone filled the boundless all. . . .

The causes of existence had been done away with; the visible that was, and the invisible that is, rested in eternal non-being – the one being.

Alone the one form of existence stretched boundless, infinite, causeless, in dreamless sleep; and life pulsed unconscious in universal space, throughout that all-presence which is sensed by the opened eye of the Dangma.

H. P. Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine* I:27

One feels a profound stillness in these lines, and an affirmation of the all-presence of divinity, the cause and oneness of being. In their ultimate, Space, Cosmic Mind, and Duration are one, and time and space together form the matrix of existence. “Everything lies within space, and everything happens within time.” (W. Macneile Dixon, *The Human Situation*, p. 328)

There are two aspects of time to be considered: inner time or eternal duration and outer or finite time, a reflection of duration, or, as Plato expressed it, the moving image of eternity. Nature’s cycles, the pulse beat of all beings activated by divine consciousness, are the inherent rhythms of life. Evolution unfolds through the operation of cycles within cycles, from the rapid whirlings of atomic lives to the majestic rhythms of stellar hosts, and beyond. Were there no orderly divisions of day and night, changing seasons, birth and death – contrasting elements of darkness and light all around and within us by which to compare and learn – there would be no growth.

These measured cycles began to register in the human consciousness and became a part of our heritage millions of years ago, in the period of the mind’s awakening. This meant a step forward in our evolution from the Eden of our unconscious state, where all was timelessness, to a new world as seen through the self-conscious mind. It is this awareness of ourselves, of all living things, and of the passage of time, that distinguishes us from the kingdoms below. At that stage, we started out on the long journey toward full self-consciousness and spiritual awakening, continuing each day to make choices on the path of life, while seeking to find our true self. The idea that time exists in the consciousness that perceives it accounts for at least some of its puzzling contradictions. In H. P. Blavatsky’s words:

Time is an illusion produced by the succession of our states of consciousness as we travel through eternal duration, and it does not exist where no consciousness exists in which the illusion can be produced; but “lies asleep.” The present is only a mathematical line which divides that part of eternal duration which we call the future, from that part which we call the past.

The Secret Doctrine I:37

Countless are the ways we psychologically manipulate time. We kill and save time; lose and find time; make, spend, and waste time. The truth is we cannot live without it nor have we learned to work with it, and our chronic complaint is that we have no time at all! We do indeed gamble with it and try to outwit it.

Plotinus referred to time as a “certain dance of intellect,” which could apply particularly to mental caprices affecting our sense of time. When happy or thoroughly absorbed in what we are doing, hours pass like minutes. When we are in great pain, anxious, bored, going through a frightening or difficult experience, minutes seem like hours. In thinking very concentratedly and deeply it is easy to lose track of time altogether, until we happen to look at the clock!

There is a vast difference between our concept of time in the sleeping and waking states. In sleep – a necessary respite from the day’s activities – our ordinary self has no awareness of time nor of what the soul is experiencing, yet there is a closeness to the higher self, and equilibrium is restored to our whole being. Wonder and mystery surround this miniature cycle of what happens on a grander scale after death.

The eternal self is ever with us, overshadowing us with its sustaining presence. Often, if we are receptive, we respond to its influence, and a glimmer of insight transports us into a deeper dimension of time and thought – this is especially true when absorbed in nature’s beauty and tranquility. A quiet mind more clearly reflects reality, just as a still pool faithfully mirrors the landscape. The kingdoms below us are closer to the inmost center of life, unhampered by the range of mental, emotional, psychological, and other conflicts that our self-reflective mind places on our shoulders. Therefore when we immerse ourselves in nature’s rhythms our soul responds and we are inwardly refreshed.

As far back as we can trace, ways of marking the flow of time have always existed, from sundials to the most sophisticated instruments of today. Our various types of standardized time are a means by which we gauge the length of cycles. For instance, a second of our time is like an eternity to an electron, and one year for the planet Jupiter is nearly twelve of our years. Our physical sense of time as well as our biological and other rhythms are indissolubly connected with the planet and its movements in relation to the sun. All these cycles add stability to our lives, including the constancy of the sun which is the heart of our solar system, our source of light and life.

Perspectives on the human time frame vary according to our philosophy of life. This involves our understanding of past, present, and future in relation to who we are and what our destiny. For instance, if we are governed by the thought that there is only one life, or that there is nothing at all but extinction after death, or an eternal hereafter with no further chance of unfolding our humanness, what then is the meaning of all the suffering and struggle, the joys and invaluable learning experiences? Is it all worthless? When our philosophy includes many incarnations prior to and following this present one in which our karmic destiny has been and is being woven, everything that happens, even the worst tragedy, can be borne with more equilibrium and understanding. The idea that we are here to gain wisdom, whatever this might involve, brings courage, strength, and reassurance that all is well.

The operations of karma are better understood when we relate them to past, present, and future – three paths of destiny, yet one. These were personified by the Three Fates in various cultures, called by the Greeks Moirai, and by the Scandinavians Norns. Let us consider the Moirai: Atropos – the future, is pictured as a maiden pointing to a sundial, “signifying what is waiting in the womb of time as the flowing hours bring it closer to us;” *Klotho* – the present, is represented as a maiden holding a spindle, “spinning the thread of present destiny to become the future;” and *Lachesis* – the past, is described as a “maiden holding a staff pointing to a horoscope,” suggesting the destiny that has already been created through past actions. (Cf. G. de Purucker, *Wind of the Spirit*, pp. 254-5.)

From far in the past we have made ourselves to be what we are now, every thought, feeling, and action having been impressed on the screen of time, the astral light. What is taking place with each succeeding moment is also being recorded. Actually past, present, and future are a continuum of the one reality which is the Eternal Now. The potential of what we will be is already within, as the future tree is contained in the seed. If it were not so, how could anything be born? In this respect the future is an illusion, because it is latent within us, as is the past, which continually becomes the present.

Mental devices causing distraction or escape from the present are common pitfalls. When we separate past or future from the present we suffer countless delusions: we may succumb to the “if only” habit, daydreaming instead of facing what is before us, regretting past actions, and falling into the “I remember” groove; or we worry over an unpredictable future, or use it as a crutch for procrastination. With regard to acts that we would like to have done differently, it is comforting to know that there will be other lives, other chances, though the more one can do in this life, the better. Regrets do not help in any way except to alert us to similar problems in the future. Each moment provides an opportunity that will never repeat itself in quite the same way, for as the wheel of life rolls on we are in a different place inwardly when a similar cycle returns. One of life’s marvels is that no two moments are the same; every moment is a new beginning until the last second of our days.

There are positive gains in studying our own past in relation to the present and the future. The type of difficulties that recur tell us something about ourselves, our weaknesses, and where our character needs strengthening. In the larger dimension a study of history indicates patterns of human behavior: aggressive, hedonistic, and selfish practices that lead to the downfall of a civilization, and the noble qualities that make a spiritually thriving one.

Cycles come and go, and many cycles are converging in this age, making it one of singular opportunity. Today we are also more than ever aware of the irreversibility of time, and the urgency to direct our energy and attention toward the good of all.

In thinking about our options we find ourselves asking: “What am I doing with my life? How far do my concerns extend beyond personal interests and desires?” We have free will to make our own choices in what we think and feel, and how we meet responsibilities. When the inner approach to life is broad and unselfish, then the outer life will assume a quiet, steady tempo. We will be in command of ourselves, in the service of our higher self which dwells in the realm of divine timelessness and moves us always toward ways of compassion, justice, and harmony.

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From the Editor

All humans experience change. Our bodies, our minds, our higher consciousness. All experience growth toward that sublime goal. Slower, faster, and definitely in circuitous routes.

Move positively with that change, wherever it flows.

Fraternally,
Scott J. Osterhage

Let the Silence within Speak...

This quarterly circular is issued by the American Section National Secretary. Material, subjects, or ideas for potential publication in this circular are welcome from the membership. Should you wish to not receive this circular, contact me below.