

AWAKENING NEWSLETTER

#11

The G-word

"You shall have no other gods besides Me... Do not make a sculpted image or any likeness of what is in the heavens above..." – Old Testament

"Hear O Israel, The Lord is God, the Lord is One." – The Torah

Those of you who know me understand that God is not a word I use. Say it, and hear the sound of 3,000 concepts rising. In the words of Terrance McKenna, ***"I could use the word God, but that coin is tarnished having been spent by weasels."*** Nonetheless, let us try to understand what this word points us to.

The literalist translation of the above quotes is that one God is true (whichever one I invest belief in) and the rest are false. This implies that God is an object, commonly an old man with a white beard on a throne. An object invested with superpowers, but an object nonetheless, and as a "thing" separate and distinct from other "things." Now we have duality – God and not God, God vs. Devil. Now there can be opposition, separation, now we can go to war in the name of this God and fight against other names.

God as an object is ephemeral, subject to eventual decay and death, as are all things created. God as a separate thing is vulnerable to attack by other powerful things (Satan). God as a separate entity is by definition limited - anything that is not "of" this object is beyond its control. It then is not always present, eternal, and unchanging.

What is always present, eternal, unchanging, not subject to form, not a thing or object?

There is one experience that every person who has ever lived will agree upon – There Is Awareness. There has always been Awareness, and that Awareness does not change. It is the same Awareness you had as a child, and is the same Awareness that exists in all sentient beings. Awareness is there even during sleep, you wake and know "I have slept". The *content* of what we are aware of changes, but not Awareness itself. This Awareness is not an object – it is that which is aware of objects. Any name you give it or attributes you ascribe to it will fail to accurately define it. It is not a thing, but the subjective experience of things. An indwelling Presence, Being itself, the witness of consciousness rather than the changing things, experiences and phenomena of which it is aware. This consciousness which is shared by all, beneath and deeper than any religious beliefs or national/racial/cultural self identifications, this Oneness, all inclusive, always present, is what we call God – the subjective experience of I AM.

From this perspective we can understand the Bible's injunction to not make sculpted images – not that they are "false" but that ANY image, likeness, representation in form, limits and boxes the Eternal into ONE image and separates it from other images, thus making it into a thing. We can understand having "no other gods before me" because there can be nothing that is not God. "The Lord is One" does not mean only one of the God choices is right but points us to Oneness itself – not limited to any form. Instead of "Jesus, not Allah" we are now pointed to what is present in both, in all, expressing through Jesus, through Allah, through Buddha. And through you.

The word "God" usually implies a dualistic viewpoint - that God and you are different. If you believe in God, then there are two entities – you and God. Now there is separation. The inner journey to the truth of who you are has nothing to do with developing the correct beliefs, and has everything to do with the level of consciousness you inhabit. You cannot understand the Great Mystery. You can not be "in relationship" with the Divine any more than you can be "in relationship" with your arm or leg. Any definition you give of God will miss the mark. But you can experience directly the presence of Awareness in you. You can realize your nature by

becoming present to what is here this moment. And in this willingness to go beyond right and wrong, to experience directly what is happening right now, you can realize that what is aware of searching for Self is revealed to be Self. God is realized as not something separate from who you are.