

# Real Knowledge is Beyond the Mind

Chicago, Illinois — September 20, 2013

Welcome, friends, to this second half of today's program. I skipped the question and answer session that was scheduled for today. We didn't have the 3 x 4 cards on which we want you to write your question. Sometimes people ask the question and nobody else can hear it, so when I give an answer it is no use to others. But some of the questions are really relevant to a lot of people. Many would have liked to ask the same question and they didn't get an answer. So what we've decided is that you write the questions and you give it to us and somebody with a microphone near me will read it out. And when an answer is given, both the question and the answer can be heard by everybody. I hope that will be a better arrangement for questions and answers. So we'll have those papers ready if you have given any questions to them.

I was joking about studying overnight to answer questions. You realize that. Either I have an answer or I don't have an answer. There is no time lag between it. If I don't have an answer, I know instantly I don't have an answer. I have to say, "Sorry, I don't have an answer." And if I have an answer, I give it straight away. What do we have to wait for? There is no wait in either case. If you have an answer, you give the answer. If you don't have an answer, you say, "No." What do you wait for? Sometimes this has puzzled me. Some people say, "We are waiting for an answer." Where is it going to come from? If it's inside you, it's there already. And if it has to come from somewhere, it may never come. So I believe that questions I can answer, I say, "This is the answer," or, "I don't know." So we don't have middle ground in this. There's no gray area in answers.

Unless we are a professor or intellectual. Then we have lot of gray area. "Perhaps it could be this." "Maybe it is that." But in spiritual knowledge, there is no perhaps and maybes at all. It's a knowledge with the same certainty, the same certainty with which you are certain that you exist. The same certainty with which you know you are awake. The same certainty which makes you know you are a living being. You don't need answers to these questions. They are certainties. People go to sleep and lose the sense of where they are. They are sleeping in their bed, but they're having a dream of somewhere else. They're running around, walking in a different body, not in this body. They are walking in a dream body, totally unaware where their physical body is lying and then when they wake up, they know that was a dream.

Why don't they say, when they wake up, "Am I sure I am awake? Couldn't this be another dream? Maybe that was wakefulness and this is a dream." Has anybody ever said that? No. And we want proof of spiritual awareness. Has anybody ever asked proof of waking up from a sleep, from a dream? If somebody says, "I have woken up," and you say, "No, prove it." How will you prove it? Does ...

when we wake up, do we pinch ourselves to see are we awake? Do we do anything else to verify this is a wakeful state? Or do we just know it? Where does knowledge come from? When we wake up from a dream, the dream sequence ended. We have not opened our eyes. We have not moved our limbs. We are exactly in the same position in the bed and we know we are awake ... with a certainty that nobody can challenge. A thousand people can come and tell us, "No, you're not awake. You're still dreaming," and we won't believe them. Where does the certainty come from? Where does the certainty of waking up come from?

It comes from the very presence of the self in the waking state. When the self is in a dream state, it can imagine it is the only real state, and it does. When we are dreaming, we think that's real. A dream does not become a dream in the dream, and if it does, in some cases it does, in the dream you can know it's a dream. What do you do in that dream? Let me find out where I'm sleeping. Let me run and wake up myself, and let me tell these friends of mine, "We are dreaming!" If you really knew it's a dream, would you tell those friends in the dream that you are dreaming?

Therefore, when we wake up we don't go and tell about anybody who we saw in the dream that we had a dream. We dismiss it. It was not real. Real is waking up, and we are awake and we know we are awake with a certainty of the self, the same certainty, and nobody can challenge it and nobody can disprove it. Act of waking up is that powerful. But if one waking up can be that powerful, why shouldn't other waking up be same powerful? If you awake from the physical to the astral plane, you forget what this body is doing and you wake up to a body which has been there much longer than this body, and you find the dream was merely a small sequence in your life on the astral world. Do we need any proof for that? Experience itself will carry a certainty.

In the same way that the experience of wakefulness creates certainty here, the experience of the self creates certainty here, the experience of waking to a higher state has carried its own certainty there. These are certainties nobody can challenge, nobody can change. They do not need a belief system. They do not need a religion. They do not need a spiritual path. Nobody needs a spiritual path to wake up from a dream. It's a natural experience. Therefore, any higher experience is also a natural experience. Then why are we having this meditation workshop? Everybody should just wake up.

We are having this meditation workshop because if a friend of ours is sleeping and has an appointment to make and goes on sleeping and we want to wake him up, how do we do it? We say, "Wake up," and nudge him on the side. "Get up, get up!" The friend is still dreaming. The friend is dreaming that he's on a farm and he's carrying his horses home. And he says, "Who will carry my horses?" He's speaking in his dream and thinking the horses are real and says ... I'm saying, "Get up," and he says, "Who will take care of my horses?" And the person who is awake says, "I will take care of your horses," and he wakes up. Does he ever say, "Where are my horses?" Why not? It's the same situation here.

When somebody more awake than us wakes us up by nudging us and we awaken from that, it's the

nudging of an awakened person that we call the spiritual path. It is the nudging by an awakened person that makes us awake further to a higher level. And the higher the person who awakens us, who gives us a nudge to wake up, the higher he can make us awake. If a person only knows the physical world and he wants to wake up a person who is sleeping and dreaming, he can nudge him to this wakeful "awakeness." He can't take him higher. If a person has awoken to higher level, he'll take him there. If he is woken up to the ultimate stage, he can take that person to the ultimate stage by mere act of nudging and waking him up. Of course, depending on how deep the sleep is also. A deep sleeper takes a little longer to wake up. Some are light sleepers. It depends whether we are a light sleepers or deep sleepers in this world. Depending on that, we have different experiences.

But the point is that this is not an artificial thing. This experience of awaking to a higher reality, awaking to a realization what is creating this reality, what's the origin of which this is a reflection, what is the original pattern which is creating the current pattern? If we want to have that knowledge, it's not based upon religion. It's not based upon philosophy. It's based upon a practical experience of being awakened by one who is already awake. A very practical experience. It belongs to all religions, belongs to all nationalities. These Perfect Living Masters who are awake at the highest level, they don't come to make us change our religion. They don't say, "Give up your religion and become this." They say, "Practice your religion but also find out what's going on inside." They don't change our way of life. They give us some help needed to experience the nudge, to experience the trigger for waking up.

Meditation is merely a trigger. Meditation is not an end in itself. Meditation is a means to wake up. Meditation is a trigger being applied by somebody who is awake who will be able to ... you will be able to see how he did it when you wake. You can only see a person who is nudging you when you wake up. Then you see who it is. In the dream you may see him in a different form because you may think this is some person doing something in the dream, and you wake up and find it is somebody else trying to shake your hand. So that's why this experience is very similar. The experience of experiencing higher reality is very similar to the experience of waking up. And that's why if a person who is awake tells a person who is dreaming about horses, "I will hold your horses," he is participating in the dream of that person who is sleeping. He knows there are no horses, and yet he says, "I will hold your horses." Is he telling him a lie? In one sense, yes. There are no horses, and he is saying, "I will take care of your horses." On the other hand, he is telling the truth, that, "Yes, you are seeing the horses. I am not seeing the horses, but you get up and there will be no horses."

So this participation by an awakened person into the life of a person who is dreaming is particularly directed so that the triggers are applied which help you to wake up. Waking up is a natural phenomenon. We all wake up when we die and give up this body, we awake to the next body and willy-nilly, whether we like it or not, because we all die. Nobody lives forever. So, therefore, this awakening is like dying while living, getting an experience of what death is like while you are still living here.

One major benefit of this experience of dying while living is you are never afraid of death after that. Not only that, you are never afraid. Period. Because most of the fears in us are fears of the unknown. This might happen, this might happen. We know what's going to happen. They're all ignorance. We are afraid of what we don't know. When we know, then we have some other emotions to deal with it, not fear. Fear is not a helpful emotion for dealing with a difficult situation. Fear is a difficult situation by itself. We create it amongst ourselves. We are afraid because we don't know what the truth is. When we know the truth, fear disappears and something else replaces it.

In the spiritual path we normally say that a Perfect Living Master can take you to that state where you can experience all levels of realities at once. Now you can't apply the rules of one level to another. The nature of time is different in the astral plane than it is here. The nature of time is different in the causal plane. You ... and then the nature of time in a timeless state beyond the mind is an amazing time in which zero second represents infinite time and space. Something that is totally beyond the mind. Human mind has been constructed with a limitation ... and a very big limitation ... The limitation is it cannot go beyond time and space under no circumstances. It cannot think outside of it. It cannot contemplate, visualize, do anything outside of time and space. If you tell it that the world began ... A physics professor tells us, quoting Einstein and Kaku and other physicists of today, and says, "The world, along with its time and space began 14.5 billion years ago." The mind says, "What was before that?" It can't think of anything except time and space. If you say, "Time started 14.5 billion years ago, and there was no time before that," can anybody contemplate it?

The mind is restricted into only being able to work in concepts, in conjecture, speculation, ideas, thoughts within time and space. It cannot go beyond, and yet our soul, our spirit, our consciousness, the one that we are looking for in meditation will go beyond it. If you want to have real knowledge, you have to go beyond the mind. Real knowledge does not lie in the realm of time and space, and we are confined to time and space.

We can find several masters in this world today. Great Master, my Master, used to say, "There appears to be more masters today than disciples. We are running short of disciples and producing more masters!" But the masters are of different kinds. Masters take you where they have gone, and that's their ultimate heaven, ultimate Sach Khand, ultimate truth, ultimate true home. If a master has only gone to the astral level of wakefulness, he has all the heavens there, which they are existing there, the heavens we speak of and describe. If he finds all those in the world of imagination which has become reality there and says, "This is the ultimate," he has seen that as the ultimate. All his disciples will think that's the ultimate. A master can't take any farther than he has gone. And only a master who has gone beyond that can say, "No, there's more."

What happens in the life of a seeker? Seeking is wanting spiritual truth. A seeker is wanting spiritual knowledge. He doesn't know how much spiritual knowledge he wants. He doesn't know about spiritual knowledge. Otherwise he wouldn't be a seeker. He seeks whatever he can get, and he runs

across people who are spiritual masters. They are masters of the spirit teaching how to access your spirit, and a master takes you to a certain stage where you find that this body is not real. There's another body that survives there, and that's the real one. That's reality. Period. And you say, "I am happy." That is good for you! You are happy, the Master is happy, everybody is fine. But if you say, "That's not what I am looking for. I want more," where did that come from? Where did that experience come from? I want to find the origin. If that seeking is in your heart, not even expressed to your Master, you will find another Master who goes beyond the Master who took you to the astral stage automatically. It's a built in system in this creation of the spirit spread out for various experiences in different forms. It's a built-in system that the seeking of the spirit, which is not coming from the mind, which is coming directly from the soul, is coming directly.

The seeking is not a thought. Seeking of spiritual things is not a thought. We can use thoughts to express it. We can use thoughts to ruminate over it, but the seeking in our hearts for spiritual knowledge does not come from the mind or the body or the senses. It comes from the spirit. The spirit seeks its own origin. The spirit seeks, "Where do I belong?" The spirit is searching for its true home, and the seeking comes and a Master takes you to a certain level. If the spirit is seeking beyond, another Master will come into your life and take you beyond. Ultimately if your spirit seeks the ultimate, an ultimate Perfect Living Master will come into your life. You don't have to search for one! You cannot find one. You can try as hard as you like ... because out of all the Masters, the one who will be the most common looking, the one who is performing no miracles to prove Himself ... is not proving and not interested in proofs at all, He is the one who may be the Perfect Living Master.

A Perfect Living Master does not come here to prove anything. He has not come out to spread any message. He has not come here to say this message is right or this is wrong. He does not come for any judgment at all. A Perfect Living Master comes here to say, "These seekers here, there, there, are asking for the absolute. I'll take them home," and He takes them home.

It's a very simple mandate for a Perfect Living Master. He's not come to judge whether you are fit or unfit. He's not come to judge how moral, immoral you are. He is not into the business of good and evil. He's come beyond the mind. These things are created by the mind. They all belong to the mind. But the Perfect Living Master comes. "This seeker has been seeking beyond what he has got, and he has got something, good footing. He has some kind of advantage that he has been seeking, but he is seeking more. Give more. Only those who are seeking the ultimate to go to their true home of the spirit are marked for being taken back by a Perfect Living Master. And these marked souls are the ones for which the Masters are here at every level.

Are they more real than the other people here? That's another question that comes up. When we say there are levels of reality, is there also a level of reality of people? Can a person we see be more real than other people? This question can be answered by a very simple way. You go to sleep and have a dream in which you meet 10 people and two happen to be the friends you know in the wakeful state.

They're your neighbors. And eight people you have never seen. They look like cartoons to you in the dream, but they all look equal in the dream. And then you say, "They are all dream creatures," and you wake up. They were all dream creatures with one difference. Two of them were still there when you woke up. They are not the same characters who were in the dream, but they were the characters that you dreamt about. So they were more real than those eight others that were only existing in the dream. Then you wake up further to a higher level of consciousness and say, you see another 10, 100 people here, and you wake up to higher consciousness and they all disappear except out of those two that were there, one is still there. Obviously the one that is still there when you have a second awakening is in that sense more real. He is coming into your experience in three levels of reality.

What is the nature of a Perfect Living Master in the physical form? That when you wake up, He is there in the astral form. When you wake up further, He is there in the causal form. When you wake up further, He is there in the spirit form. When you go home to your true home, He's still there, and you find He and you were the same. That you were the master of your own self, but you had to project another master for the sake of going back home. What an experience? But wouldn't you call that ordinary living person in a human frame being different from all the others because all others disappeared as creation, and He continues to be part of Creator and you continue to be part of Creator and everything else disappears. So there are levels of degrees of reality not only of the experiences we are having outside but also the nature of people that we are seeing around. And some are copies from real people at a different level. And some are merely being created because of karma, and that's another point.

When I was young, one thing that baffled me a lot was how the law of karma works. I said, "If I have interaction in my life with 20,000 people and I have a karmic connection now, in my next birth I have to pay off or receive things from them because of my karma. They have another 20,000 each, and it's an innumerable number. What kind of computer does this guy use who determines our destinies and writes out and says, "Okay, that karma with that guy." Boy, it requires a top mathematician to do all the permutation, combination, but millions of people, billions of people, and billions of people interacting with billions of people and to write out their programs for a simple 50-100 years of life ... in 100 years how much can you accommodate? And what a big task! How does he put all the ... program all this stuff? It was a very baffling thing for me.

When I found the answer, it was the simplest. I found he has to do nothing. He has to create the images of those people. He doesn't have to create people at all. You have contact with 20,000 people. All you need is to go into another physical incarnation into a dream state, create 20,000 people exactly the way you have to do karma. They don't even know about it. You are having your karma settled. That's the simplest thing. There was no computer involved. Little imagination and some ingenuity, and the guy is doing a simple business. So this karma is creating people. Karma is creating people because whatever karma we have, we have to create the people to pay off or receive. We have to be punished or rewarded based upon our own actions, our own conscience telling us it's right or

wrong. We are creating our morality. We are creating our karma, and we are creating the worlds in the next life. Who is real then? How many people that we come across are created for karmic reasons, and how many are created for spiritual reasons?

That's only you can find out when you wake up one after the other in different stages. At the end you will find one person is still awake with you, and he was there in every dream of yours, and he was a Perfect Living Master. He even came into the dreams that you had within this dream. Even within a dream within a dream He was still there, and you woke up three times over. Before you were also in the physical dream, He was still there. You woke up to five stages of awakening, He was still there. Therefore, although that person appears like anybody else and looks like anybody else, lives like anybody ... has to in order to fulfill the law of karma, has to do exactly the same things, and yet He's more real than the others, even in physical form. So this ... very few people know about this, that there is a difference in the physical reality of people, that although the image is created the same way, the projection takes place the same way.

If we can project all the people with our minds, we also project the Master with our mind. But the other people we can project even if they're not there, up there, and we do that. We multiply images, but the Master is there and we project Him, too. This is a projection which has a real counterpart. Therefore, there is a difference in this. That is why if everything around us was unreal, why would we go to a Master? He's unreal, too. Why would we look for somebody who's as unreal as anybody else, and we created that Master and we created everything else? That's what we are told on the spiritual path; we should just look for something inside and find a true Master, not a Master outside. But when we look for a true Master, the same guy comes up again, and then we say, "No, there was a difference even in the physical plane."

I'm explaining these things to you because sometimes there are a lot of questions asked, that "How do we know the Master," and I said, "You don't know. You can't know, but the Master can know." If he cannot know who is a seeker, he is not a Master. If he cannot know who is a marked soul, he is not a Perfect Living Master at all. He must know it at all levels ... because when you reach the end of this journey, get to the top where we belong, from where the spirit originated, which is one spirit, one totality of consciousness, no split in that. It has never been more than one, never will be more than one, has never been split into any individual souls or spirits. All this was created by the power of consciousness within that one consciousness. The entire existence is within that one consciousness. Once you reach that point, you have experience of the entire consciousness level, all the levels you know. All the levels you know how they are created by the power of consciousness, and all are real or unreal, depending on how you want to make it and how you want to experience it. You can lock up some of the experience and make it real.

I sometimes give the example of a drop in the ocean. Another example that baffled me as a child. I was told, because I belonged to a family who were following masters and they would talk about these

things. They said, “We are lost souls. We are like drops of water. We've forgotten where the ocean is. One day Master will come and help us, pick up the drop and go and pour it back into the ocean, and we'll get merged in the ocean.” Never appealed to me. If this is the spiritual path, I said “I'll never take it.” Simple reason! If I am a drop, I have an identity, an ego, a personality of a drop. I go and merge in the ocean, I'll lose everything. I'm a loser! One drop in the ocean will make no difference to the ocean. It doesn't gain anything! It's a lose-lose game. The spiritual path of a drop running all around to find the ocean and then merging in it is losing himself in the ocean. That's a terrible spiritual path. I had no attraction for this kind of a path.

But as I grew up, I found that was a mistaken notion. The mistake was that I thought the drop had been lost, that the drop was lost, had gone away somewhere and was trying to find the ocean. I found the drop never left the ocean. The drop was still in the ocean. What made it a drop was loss of the awareness as part of the ocean. The drop was never lost. Awareness of what it was, was lost. The spiritual path is not a journey anywhere. It's a recovery of your awareness of who you really are. It's a recovery of the truth about the self; that what the self is. That when the self realizes through means of meditation and awakening to all the levels, you find you were always the ocean, that you never lost anything. You regain the awareness of your true self, that you were the ocean and never a drop, that you became a drop because you made very narrow the awareness of your own self. You narrowed it down by putting covers upon your self. You narrowed it down by creating things like time and space and spread out things outside beyond your self. You narrowed your self by making small forms into which you embedded yourself and thought this is a huge world, huge universe, and I'm a very small part of it. You demeaned your self to this level that you became ordinary human beings in a huge multitude of population. What did you do? You lost your awareness. You lost awareness that even at this time you are no drops, you are the ocean. You lost the awareness that you are the ocean, and you are confining yourself to the awareness of a drop. When you expand your awareness step by step. Five steps to total awareness, and you'll find out you were always the ocean. That's what we are here for.

The meditation workshop is designed to provide that opportunity to regain our awareness and to find out who we really are. That's why I said in the beginning, “If you can find out who you really are and you are not sitting anywhere far away, you are sitting right inside a physical body, which, by power, a power created by consciousness, the power of awareness, the power of imagination, the power of attention, you can reach that point and know and expand your awareness to totality and be the ocean again.

We'll continue this tomorrow, and we'll have more meditation sessions tomorrow and also questions and answers and especially I have said so many things to you today. Normally the mind likes to ask questions on these things. That's normal, and, therefore, you can write tomorrow the questions and I'll try to answer them during short sessions of questions and answers.

Also, some people have asked for personal interview one on one. Definitely that's always an advantage

to people who have personal questions, and you can give your names. Are there anybody who's leaving today itself? Is there anybody who has never had an interview before and would like to have an interview? These people who have never had interview before and would like to have interview, I'll give them time today itself. Okay? And the others will follow this pattern that those who have never had interviews come first and those who have had interviews will come later, and I'll go and meet those people who I have never seen before ... in physical form. I emphasize physical form.

Thank you very much. God bless.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdgsbQZAQ2Y>

**Published by ISHA. All rights reserved. This English transcript of a YouTube talk by Ishwar C. Puri is published under a CC BY-NC-SA license, which means that you can copy, redistribute, remix, and freely distribute sections of the transcript, provided that any derivative works or new resulting creations are not used for any commercial purpose and as long as you give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. License details: [creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/) Copyright 2019. Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA).**