

Postscript

We are not doings – we are beings!

Neale Donald Walsch's Conversations With God

In the mid-80s, I deliberately walked away from most of what I had learnt over the preceding ten years, feeling then that something was wrong between me and God. In those ten preceding years I had seemed in the most part (in retrospect) to have 'walked with God' as a student, but at that moment I could not see it like that. Another marriage had failed, and it seemed that I was becoming an outsider to the religion of my adoption. As had happened in 1974 and exactly ten years later, another cycle seemed to end.

And then, owing to my (apparent) business development needs, I allowed someone to put up a mirage of the availability of Eldorado! I found myself going down a very long and impoverishing road to discover it was all illusion. I seemed to be going backwards!

Before that illusion finally disintegrated, I and Anasuya went on holiday for that tour of North Italy that I described before – and when I found St. Francis of Assisi' sown chapel within the basilica, and the shock of the sight of the humungous containing the miniscule!

Within nine months of that, I was in a far-eastern country - still on the impoverishing road to illusion and in that place to reap my illusive rewards (but which remained illusive – my four months in the Far East is a story in itself!) - when I began reading the Bhagavad Gita for the first time. It was the time when I was asked – as previously related - "...which is the right religion?".

The immediately following years brought some sharp spiritual perspectives - and materialistic poverty. That illusive bubble finally burst, revealing just illusion; then – in fairly quick succession - my mother' s death, bankruptcy, a close cousin's death, heart-failure, unemployment, Anasuya' s own ill-health - and other distractions.

Losing virtually every significant material belonging (and two of the closest people in my life in quick succession) in this manner is not just sobering, it is almost devastating – and such loss of control over one's circumstances can cause a person to be suicidal, homicidal, psychotic or just highly depressed. All these states went through my mind. But I had my spiritual experiences from the previous twenty years to fall back on. This was the biggest test in which to apply those lessons from before.

In the middle of all this, one of our cats had 'gone into its shell' after moving house, and slept upstairs nearly all of the time. One day, whilst mulling over the situation for the umpteenth time, that cat suddenly ran into the room from upstairs, with a sliver of *vibhuti* (sacred ash) on her back! She has been incredibly close to me ever since, and effectively brought me out of my doldrums...

Shortly after, I was brought into closer contact with the teachings of Sathya Sai Baba, and not very long after I started writing this book.

But when that bubble of illusion had burst, my thoughts for some time were "HOW could *he* do this to us!" ("he" being the 'businessman' in whom I had put my trust). Gradually – and it *was* a gradual process! – I somehow remembered that all things are not without purpose, and that perhaps I was supposed to learn or remember something from this process. I looked at God with fresh eyes, and began to accept my lot, and let go. When I did that, and also re-built some regular spiritual reflection into my life, the chains that seemed to be shackling my arms and legs slackened considerably. I was learning (again) to 'be'... and am still learning.

After all – so many in this world have so little to even live on or live in.

So out of this circumstance grew hope. And with needing little of the material to want to hold onto, there was less fear. Because how you could fear anything when there is only God that is left?

Out of complete disorder, slowly there came to be order – of a kind. There was enough, and enough *is* enough.



So, I thought I had come to the end of my writings in August, 2003. But although I seemed to have put in the essential pieces that I had wanted, there also seemed something missing, and I could not define what that was.

Then it just so happened that I was loaned a copy of Neale Donald Walsch's '*Conversations With God*', Book One. I do not think I had even heard of the CWG books before, and would probably not have chosen to purchase one! I would then have been inclined to say, "What crank is this claiming to have had *Conversations With God*?! – *Why* should I read this when I can rely on my own sources?"

But read it I did. And what struck me immediately was the close connection between the words I was reading and some of the clarifications I had obtained over the preceding five or six years. But the CWG books (yes, I went on to read more CWG publications!) had the affect of relaxing me. Yes, I had known already, or felt I knew, the essence of much of what is in the CWG books. Since the words seemed to equate fully to my experience and readings of other teachings, I felt I had 'come home'! But there was more that I had not previously fully understood – especially about conscious evolution.

Amongst many other topics, the CWG books suggested there should be more transparency of thought in the world, and that struck home. Was transparency also the missing element in this book of mine? It resulted in my bringing out the 'surgeon's scalpel' to give the text a more human facelift, without changing the general picture and the essential issues as previously drafted. What was curious is that the reading of the CWG material had the affect of opening me up to remember my personal experiences and the emotion of the time in more detail.

I was further reminded that the study of spiritual philosophy is nothing without a corresponding action. But 'doing' without first 'being' is not advisable.

But, "*Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*" – St. James.

What form of 'works' (action) first of all needs to be reflected on, however, for the CWG books make an important point that the form of action one takes stems from what one *believes* – so if the *belief* is unsound, the action can be misdirected. The world's problems cannot be solved purely according to behaviour, but at the level of belief. It is from *belief* that behaviours stem!¹

Belief systems start with how we are educated at home and in the school from the earliest age. '*Tomorrow's God*'² introduces a re-definition of the Three Rs as Reconciliation, Re-creation and Re-unification!

What would benefit your world enormously right now would be for you to seek reconciliation between the many separate and disparate elements within your present societal structure. Between races, between genders, between nationalities, between religions.

This reconciliation must include acknowledgment of all that you have done to each other as you have sought to find your way to a better life: admission of all past "wrongs." And it must include a sincere apology for those wrongs.

'*Tomorrow's God*', having given illustrations of the kind of apologies referred to in the international context, the book then discusses the "new" Three R's, explaining their need as being necessary to equip to-day's children for future stewardship of the world and international relations:

Reconciliation

Reconciliation must include restoration of your societies, groups, and individuals, so that they may feel whole again. This includes reparations for past losses, to the extent possible. People must feel empowered to be who they are before they can begin to think about who they might become.

Restoration projects should include closing the gap between the world's rich and the world's poor. It is, more than any other single factor, poverty and meagre

¹ This is a criticism that can be levelled at (but not only at) politics, in that policies are very often contrived according to demands not based on accurate criteria. There is a tendency to apply short-term 'solutions' that are often of the 'sticking-plaster' variety.

² Chapter 21 (another of the CwG books), published 2004.

education—which translates into lack of opportunity and lack of awareness—that keeps the human race at the adolescent stage in its evolutionary development.

Reconciliation as described here is the first step in the process of human renewal. You must see what you have done before you can see what you are going to do.

Re-creation

Re-creation means renouncing the old ways and the old stories and the old habits and the old rationales and the old reasons for doing things, and re-creating yourselves anew in the next grandest version of the greatest vision ever you held about Who You Are.

We are talking here about *redefining yourselves* as a species. If you wish to live together in peace and harmony, your world is going to have to reinvent itself, creating new ideas about what it means to be human, what it means to be successful, what it means to be abundant and happy.

Much of this work of re-creation can be done through Creation Education. Yet it must also involve joint efforts by people, governments, and nongovernmental organizations all around the world.

Re-unification

Creation Education - which, by the way, will provide programs not only for children, but for people of all ages - will always encourage humanity to seek the experience of reunification with All That Is. That means with God and with All Humans Everywhere. It means "mind-melding" with all of Life in its many manifest forms. It means, becoming One.

This last of the new Three R' s may be the most important of them all. For if this can be accomplished, everything else will fall into place. The realization that you are One Being - that everything in Life is really One Thing, Manifesting - can and will change your entire experience forever.

Reading, ' Riting', Rithmetiçwould still be relevant in the context of:

... the "data" of life, the collection of information that it is useful for humans to know in order to interact with others and with the world around them.

It should be stated here that the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values 'system' (SSEHV) has already been promulgated in schools in the United Kingdom and other countries in the world, with the purpose of preparing children for their future lives as adults. I am sure that SSEHV is not the only system in use.



Coincidental with writing this last chapter, a national newspaper contained a small editorial³ headed, 'Greed will Cost Us the Earth'. And then –

One in three deaths among children in Europe is due to environmental hazards, says a report in medical journal The Lancet. Meanwhile, the non-executive chairman of oil giant Shell says the climate change makes him really worried for the planet.

Warnings about what we are doing to the Earth are coming thick and fast. Too few of us are listening. The developed countries are using up a disproportionate amount of the world's resources while the emerging nations are hell bent on playing catch-up. Who can blame them?

We must change the way we live or the price we will pay for our lifestyles will become too great.

³ In the Daily Express (p.12), 18th June, 2004.

It was 'good' that this article appeared⁴. But *why wasn't it printed in large lettering, and in red ink?!!* Though the words were and are succinctly true, there was little impact by virtue of its emplacement in the middle of much other verbiage.

Spirituality, if there's any doubt about it, is *not* simply a question of meditation and/or prayers. It is the business about loving ourselves and ALL others (including the environment) as though we are one. If we were to truly see ourselves in that light, then the kind of dangers, the kind of economics, the kind of politics and the kind of inhumanity to man and beast that today exists simply would not last. That way simply could not subsist. There *has* to be another way!

Jim Wallis (in *The Soul of Politics* (1994), Ch. 2 – Can Politics be Moral?) said:

Our public life reflects our moral values, one way or the other. We' ve all seen how politics can reflect our worst values of selfishness, greed, divisiveness, fear and power. Yet we long to see how politics could reflect our best values of compassion, community, diversity, hope and service. Reconnecting politics to our best values is now the most important task of political life. The old political morality has left us paralysed. Our times cry out for a new political morality, one that will provide the ground for new possibilities.

But reawakening to a politics of renewed moral conscience will shake us to our very foundations. The alternative to the passive politics of the status quo is a prophetic politics of personal and social transformation. However, the movement from one to the other will change our very understanding of politics.

I am convinced that there are great forces of change that have been starting to prevail for a few years now, but I also now feel confident that it is up to us (each one of us!) to promote that sea-change even further!

I have read somewhere that as little as five (5!) per centum of the population can invoke 'critical mass'. That is by that number of people moving in the same direction, change can begin to be effected. The ways and means of moving in that direction are various, for all paths lead to God, but in my experience it all starts with a willingness to open oneself up to the possibilities – instead of asking "why", ask "why not?!" Let us have the common interest in view – not selfishness in the guise of real self-interest!

We live on one planet; we are one people; we are one world. Nothing and no-one is separate from us in reality. Let us concentrate on those simple spiritual truths, for unless we do our technology can be let loose in even more dangerous ways, and we shall lose opportunities to save the ecology and the sustainability of our planet. Even our science may not save us, and we may even lack the proper wherewithall to be able to make appropriate value decisions on how science may be best utilised.

In '*The New Revelations*'⁵ by Neale Donald Walsch, it is stated:

Spirituality has been telling you that you create your own reality, that you have all the secrets and power of life within you. Science is now about to show you that—and to show you ways that you may use that power and those secrets.

Spirituality has been telling you that you are God. Not only that you are a *part of God*, but that you are gods, in *human form*. ("Have I not said, ye are gods?") Science is now about to show you that—and to show you ways that you may impact life with the power of the gods.

When you begin to be able to do this—and this is coming now not in a matter of decades, but years, and even months—you will be faced with many, many decisions. "Are we to play God?" you will be asking yourself.

This will be the central question of the 21st Century.

⁴ Admittedly, a great proportion of the [children's] deaths analysed were down to "injuries", mostly unintentional, with road traffic accidents especially prominent in western Europe. "There should be legislation about driving with no alcohol, about slowing the speed in urban areas and planning settlements so that children can play, walk and go to school safely," said Lancet lead author Georgio Tamburlini from the World Health Organization. Fire, drowning and poisoning are frequent causes in other parts of the continent.

⁵ Chapter 25, pub'd 2000.

To what extent are you to "interfere" in matters that you used to think were supposed to be "left up to God," and to what extent is God calling upon you to use the tools you have been given by God with which to perform miracles?

These are the kinds of ethical decisions that religions are hoping to prepare you to make in the future, just as they have been trying to help you in the past to make social, political, and economic decisions. Yet unless they expand their own belief systems, religions — well-meaning as they are — will be no more successful than they were yesterday.

Organised religion is going to have to vastly expand and deepen its understanding of Life and God before it can tackle to-day's problems, much less to-morrow's.



Again referring to Neale Donald Walsch's *Conversations With God*, the ways and methods by which we could go about healing ourselves and our attitudes towards one another worldwide are discussed in great detail.

It is suggested that if each of us were to take to heart a certain "Five Steps to Peace", then progress along the desired lines would be attainable, for it is only by creating ourselves as our own policemen can we hope to influence the world around us; "to be in the world but not of it".

The 'steps' as published in the CWG books are as follows:

The Five Steps To Peace

1. I acknowledge that some of my old beliefs about God and about Life are no longer working.
2. I acknowledge that there is something I do not understand about God and about life, the understanding of which could change everything.
3. I am willing for new understandings of God and life to now be brought forth, understandings that could produce a new way of life on this planet.
4. I am willing to explore and examine these new understandings and, if they align with my inner truth and knowing to enlarge my belief systems to include them.
5. I am willing to live my life as a demonstration of my highest and grandest beliefs, rather than as a denial of them.

The best way forward is therefore to transcend conventional religious or political belief, for without doing that these 'five steps' cannot be honestly attempted. But, old traditions and structures should not simply be discarded. As stated in '*The New Revelations*':

It is now time to present the world with new theological thoughts and ideas, a new spiritual model. The world must have something new to hold on to if it is to release its grip on the old. If you were in the middle of a raging stream, would you let go of a log?

Build, therefore, a bridge.

Become that bridge.

Live the beliefs of a New Spirituality. Walk the path of a New Revelation. Do not merely speak of this revelation, but demonstrate the truth of it with your life, lived.

Show the way.

Be a bringer of the light.

A Brave New World of Spiritual Unity beckons!⁶

May the force be with you!

⁶ Please see the selected Bibliography at the end of this book.

Nineteen Recommended Practises⁷

Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.

When you lose, don't lose the lesson.

Follow the three R's⁸:

Respect for self;

Respect for others;

Responsibility for all your actions.

Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.

Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.

Don't let a little dispute injure a great relationship.

When you realize that you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.

Spend some time alone every day.

Open arms to change, but don't let go of your values.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good honourable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time!

A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.

In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.

Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.

Be gentle with the Earth.

Once a year, go somewhere you've never been before.

Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need.

Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.

Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.

⁷ Attributed to the Dalai Lhama.

⁸ Yet another version!

*“You never can tell what your thoughts will do in bringing you hate or love;
For thoughts are things, and their airy wings are swifter than carrier dove.
They follow the law of the universe - Each thing must create its kind;
And they speed o'er the track to bring you back whatever went out from your mind.”*
(Source unknown).

*“To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all
...that is genius...
A man should learn to detect and watch that gleam of light which flashes across his mind from within, more
than the lustre of the firmament of bards and sages.
Yet he dismisses without notice his thought, because it is his. In every work of genius we recognize our own
rejected thoughts; they come back to us with a certain alienated majesty.”*
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Which Comes First?!

A woman came out of her house and saw 3 old men with long white beards sitting in her front yard. She did not recognize them. She said, "I don't think I know you, but you must be hungry. Please come in and have something to eat."
"Is the man of the house home?", they asked.
"No", she replied. "He's out."
"Then we cannot come in", they replied.
In the evening when her husband came home, she told him what had happened.
"Go tell them I am home and invite them in!"
The woman went out and invited the men in"
"We do not go into a House together," they replied.
"Why is that?" she asked.
One of the old men explained: "His name is Wealth," he said pointing to one of his friends, and said pointing to another one, "He is Success, and I am Love." Then he added, "Now go in and discuss with your husband which one of us you want in your home."
The woman went in and told her husband what was said. Her husband was overjoyed. "How nice!!", he said, "since that is the case, let us invite Wealth. Let him come and fill our home with wealth!"
His wife disagreed. "My dear, why don't we invite Success?"
Their daughter-in-law was listening from the other corner of the house. She jumped in with her own suggestion: "Would it not be better to invite Love? Our home will then be filled with love!"
"Let us heed our daughter-in-law's advice," said the husband to his wife.
"Go out and invite Love to be our guest."
The woman went out and asked the 3 old men, "Which one of you is Love? Please come in and be our guest."
Love got up and started walking toward the house. The other 2 also got up and followed him. Surprised, the lady asked Wealth and Success: "I only invited Love, Why are you coming in?"
The old men replied together: "If you had invited Wealth or Success, the other two of us would've stayed out, but since you invited Love, wherever He goes, we go with him. Wherever there is Love, there is also Wealth and Success!!!!!!!"

Do you choose yourself?

Body and soul contain a thousand possibilities out of which you can build many 'I's. But in only one of them is there a congruence of elector and elected. Only one – which you will never find until you have excluded all those superficial and fleeting possibilities of being and doing with which you toy (out of curiosity, wonder or greed) and which hinder you from casting anchor in the experience in the mystery of life, and the consciousness of the talent entrusted to you, which is your I.

Dag Hammarskjöld
Former secretary-general of the United Nations
In 'Markings', 1963.

Jesus said, "If those who lead you say unto you: Behold, the Kingdom is in heaven, then the birds of heaven will be before you. If they say unto you: It is in the sea, then the fish will be before you. But the kingdom is within you, and it is outside of you. When you know yourselves, then shall you be known, and you shall know that you are the sons of the living Father. But if you do not know yourselves, then you are in poverty, and you are poverty".

The Gospel of Thomas

"Stop searching for God outside yourself. Look for him within. Examine who says, "My God, my consciousness, my understanding, my psyche, my body." Investigate the source of your experiences of sorrow and joy, love and hate, waking up though you don't will it, and sleeping though you don't will it, and falling in love though you don't will it. If you closely investigate these things you will find him in yourself. The unity in variety [diversity]. Like a central point. Thus you will find in yourself a way out of yourself."

Monoimos ("the Arab") – An early Christian sage.

Take time to THINK....
It is the source of POWER.
Take time to PLAY....
It is the source of perpetual YOUTH.
Take time to READ....
It is the fountain of WISDOM.
Take time to PRAY....
It is the greatest POWER in Earth.
Take time to LOVE, and be loved....
It is a God-given PRIVILEGE.
Take time to be FRIENDLY....
It is the road to HAPPINESS.
Take time to LAUGH....
It is the MUSIC of the soul.
Take time to GIVE....
It is too short a day to be selfish.
Take time to WORK....
It is the price of SUCCESS.

- Swami Sivananda

He that overcometh shall inherit all things;
and I will be his God and he shall be My Son.
(Rev. 21. 7.)