

Excerpt from Chapter 12, The Wonder of the Guru

Every birth presupposes the coming together of an effector and a receptor. In a physical birth the sperm is the effector and the egg is the receptor. Similar to the coming together of the physical father and mother resulting in the chance entry of a spermatozoon into an ovum, the miracle of union occurs between the input of a genuine master and the receptive mind of the seeker. The seeker's mind should be kept open for a seeing master to fill with the spiritual seed.

When it happens, it happens. No one can predict how, why, when and between whom it will take place. Men and women can lie together and mate a thousand times, but the one coupling resulting in pregnancy is mysteriously different from all the other nine hundred and ninety-nine. Like that, you can sit at the feet of several people and feel entertained, but the magic touch of transformation comes to you only from the right person by God's Grace. I say this fully aware that it may sound old fashioned to speak of grace.

Finding one's guru should not be confused with the commonplace event of entering into a contract with a fellow member of your society. The only test and final proof that you have found your guru is life becoming meaningful to you, because what is happening is not at all outside you. The man or woman "out there" is only a mirror of the occasion of your birth.

When a child is born, the placenta is thrown away. Nobody mounts it on a frame and says, "This is the most benign placenta from which I got the child." What is important is the emergence of your true Self. You are That, and your Guru is also That. Everything else is to be treated as incidental. This idea is well expressed in the Zen story of "The Taming of the Bull."

Even though the word "guru" and the spiritual rites of a guru giving initiation to a disciple are looked upon as Indian in origin, seeking wisdom and finding it from a wise preceptor has been known all over the world. The spiritual reality of being initiated

into the sacred center of one's own beingness has happened in one way or another to people everywhere.

Unfortunately, this most vital and wonderful experience is today very much vulgarized by having become a commercial proposition. The "confusion of tongues" relating to this subject is now more confounding than ever, and it has become the hunting ground of charlatans. As a result, many an honest seeker is lured into the blind alley of mystical pretension.

Only a few are lucky enough to find their path without being confronted by impossible situations and enigmatic paradoxes. The trickiest part of the search is keeping faith alive without giving up caution and discrimination. In other words, the best guide for common sense is intuition, and the most dependable friend of intuition is common sense.

The need to know and the imperativeness to be arise from the very depth of man's soul. They will go on tormenting him until he finds his roots, discovers his path, and is assured of his goal.