

WHAT DOES **TRANSCENDENCE MEAN?**

Reflections on Eckhart Tolle's Good Friday meditation

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 You are here, not because you want to awaken, but because you are awakening, you are already on the path, unless somebody dragged you here.

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• The awakening process is the transcending of the personal dimension. You die to the personal dimension. Transcending does not mean the personal dimension gets totally eliminated, but you go beyond it. It no longer dominates your consciousness.

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A test:

- Whenever you get upset about trivial things, that's a good indication that consciousness is trapped in form. And then form becomes all important, which is a delusion, so you are trapped.
- Another way of putting it is, you don't know who you are. You are nailed to the cross of matter. You, consciousness, are nailed to the cross of form and you suffer.

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- Eventually you surrender. In other words, the reactive entity (your judgemental mind) does not operate anymore. Then you're free. Awakened to who you are beyond form.
- You may recognise, as we sit together here, that there is something that is not the words, not what you see, not the images of each other, the form, but something arises from within you that you cannot name, although we may try to find words for it. Inner space. Stillness. Awareness itself, awareness that is arising of consciousness itself, God, love ...

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lose your fear of form, of the world, of other people. Fear is that which blocks love, which would naturally be there in the absence of fear. Fear ultimately tells us that form is all there is.







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 Of course, somebody 2000 years ago already said that: "forgive your enemies". This is basically the same thing. Don't fight anything or anybody. "Forgive your enemies." Fighting is an inner, reactive state of consciousness. Any reactivity is a form of fighting.

- We have all the fights in the world that are not working because they are fights:
- the fight against terrorism, the fight against drugs, the fight against crime, the fight against poverty, the fight against illness.
- These are not solutions; they add to the problems.

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- It's not a question of saying: "I've found it now, what's next?"
- By finding, it means to continually live that knowing.
- It's not a one-off, "okay I've found it now, I'm awakened".
- It's a continuous knowing in the background of your life.
- Non conceptual awareness.
- It stays with you.
- That's what it is.
- It shines through the personal.
- The light that shines through the person that before was so heavy and dense.
- That is what transcendence means.















• Many native cultures believe that the heart is the bridge between Father Sky and Mother Earth. For these traditions, the four-chambered heart, the source for sustaining emotional and spiritual health, is described as being full, open, clear, and strong. These traditions feel that it is important to check the condition of the four-chambered heart daily, asking: Am I full-hearted, open-hearted, clearhearted, and strong-hearted?

- Angeles Arrien

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Interpersonal COEX systems

- The common denominator is certain a certain type of relationship to a specific category of people - authority figures, sexual partners, or peers.
- Since human relationships are complementary, an average person tends to respond in a predictable and expected way and thus reinforces a dysfunctional pattern. The task of a good teacher, ideal boss, and eventually the therapist is to respond in an atypical and unexpected way to break repetitive pattern and provide a corrective experience:
- The Jean Valjean Phenomenon.
- COEX systems are extremely important for understanding the dynamics of the therapeutic process and the interpersonal problems that might develop between facilitators/sitters and individuals who are in holotropic states of consciousness. It seems to be the key for understanding the extraordinary significance of set and setting for the holotropic experience.













LEFT BRAIN FUNCTIONS	RIGHT BRAIN FUNCTIONS
uses logic	uses feeling
detail oriented	"big picture" oriented
facts rule	imagination rules
words and language	symbols and images
present and past	present and future
math and science	philosophy & religion
can comprehend	can "get it" (i.e. meaning)
knowing	believes
acknowledges	appreciates
order/pattern perception	spatial perception
knows object name	knows object function
reality based	fantasy based
forms strategies	presents possibilities
practical	impetuous
safe	risk taking



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Exclusion criteria

- Schizophrenia, psychotic disorders, or bipolar disorders + first- or second-degree relatives
- Uncontrolled hypertension
- Pregnant women or those with inadequate birth control practices
- Tricyclic antidepressants, lithium, acute use of serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), haloperidol might potentiate
- Chronic use of SSRIs and monoamine oxidase inhibitors might suppress their effects.

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BIOLOGICAL PREDICTORS

- 5-HT2A 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 2A (5-HT2A) binding potential and other biological predictors
- Absorbtion
- Similar effects in males and females

SET & SETTING

- Openness to experience
- Acceptance of non-ordinary states
- Surrender/letting go
- Expectations, mood, motivations and intentions

- Drug effects were less intense in those with greater psychedelic usage in the past, suggesting that users may habituate or become desensitized to the effects of psychedelics over time.
- Greater previous use was related to reduced difficulty of the experience as well as reduced improvements in well-being post-treatment. One interpretation of these results is that users may habituate to the effects of psychedelics after repeated usage, and it may be important to not overuse psychedelic substances in order to continue deriving the same benefits from them.

• Older individuals may be somewhat less sensitive to the effects of psychedelics drugs and/or potentially require higher doses

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"For us it is absolutely clear that the Grof way for any Sessions is to follow the inner healing intelligence and not have any intentions in your head!"

Stan & Brigitte