

If I Am a Teacher...
by Bob Cergol

Bob's email message is in response to the editor of a widely circulated magazine that has been published since 1995. The editor writes, "I am always looking for interesting spiritual people to talk to, people who walk their talk, which is not easy. Through www.spiritualteachers.org I came across you and was wondering if we might have a talk some time and maybe do an interview for the magazine."

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Dear _____,

I would be happy to meet and talk with you, however I really don't want the publicity and I think you would find me boringly common! What specifically did you come across that made you think you should talk to me?

The blurb on Shawn Nevin's Web site notwithstanding, I have no interest in promoting myself as a teacher. It is there, with my reluctant consent, due to my involvement with the TAT Foundation and writings I have contributed to their Forum. My own teacher, Richard Rose, instilled in me a sense of obligation to help others as a debt owed for help received. But it goes beyond that. When you've seen and accepted your own non-existence—and what remains—you recognize that same inner something in another when it is calling that person to come home, and that something unites you, and you cannot refuse to acknowledge it. I do not seek students or to be known. My attitude is that when someone's path, who is earnestly searching, crosses with mine, I am happy, indeed feel obligated, to be of any help I am able, while at the same time feel it is a burden. If I am a teacher, then I am a reluctant teacher—and most certainly useful to only a few. I married late in life, have a young family, many obligations, and my share of mundane problems and no time for the "New Age" stage.

The idea that spiritual realization fixes anything or adds one iota to an individual is wishful thinking. It does not bring health and happiness as understood by conventional thinking. That is precisely the block—that the individual believes him or her self to be anterior to God himself and that there is some personal benefit to be acquired—or that the personality is somehow realigned to conform to some stereotype. Realization is not an experience! The experience associated with it is a product of the personality, i.e. the body-mind. That body-mind is mostly accidental. (Yet nothing is an accident or without purpose!) This explains the enormous divergence in verbalizations from those who bear witness to self-realization, from a Bernadette Roberts to a Franklin Merrill Wolf. A certain detachment or dissociation from the dream does come with the realization, but that doesn't make one the producer, director and writer of the script. The personality is part of the dream script and remains true to its character in the farce! That personality can only manifest and communicate according to its unique history. When one hits a chord with the masses they go down in history, either famous or infamous. Most are utterly unknown.

By the way, I visited Ode's web site and read your pieces on Robert Muller and Eckhart Tolle. I liked hearing about Muller's war-time story. Any stories of encounters with death get my attention because it is what everyone is running from, and what "thins" the membrane of ego, opening them up—to possibilities...I know nothing else of Muller but saving this bee-hive civilization is irrelevant to discovering one's nature, and if society was comprised of individuals who knew WHAT they are, then we wouldn't have millions rioting over cartoons of some "prophet". I read Tolle's *Power of Now* and liked a lot of what he had to say. I felt his words could have been mine in many places. But he lost me with his talk of evolution and social issues. There is no evolution of consciousness—unless you want to describe the endless morphing of shapes in the clouds as evolution. Infinite variation in form does not equate to magnification of human egos—except in mankind's collective imagination.

If you really want to dig deeper into whatever prompted you to contact me, consider attending the TAT Spring Conference as my guest. Otherwise, if you have a reason to travel to Raleigh, North Carolina I'd be happy to meet with you and perhaps introduce you to some friends who have stories more interesting than mine to tell.

Regards,
Bob Cergol