



“If you know that a thing is unrighteous, then use all dispatch in putting an end to it - why wait till next year?”

Mencius

Samsara Karma: The Means Justifies the End

Exploring human mischief.

“If what we are now has been the result of our own past actions, it certainly follows that whatever we wish to be in the future can be produced by our present actions; so we have to know how to act.”

The Buddha

Everything we do in this world, through the course of our lifetime, either liberates us to the blessing of Karma or binds us to a Karma that is reflecting our spiritual indifference. The Karma we “do” in this world either becomes our attrition to fear or attainment to Love. The Karma we induce upon the Soul echoes through our destiny as the fate that we must all meet through either Samsara Karma (repetitive lifetimes of futility) or by the cessation of our individual Karma through the Love that reveals the blessed state of consciousness that is transformational. All of this is a moment-to-moment way of life that we choose.

Many of the people I have served as a “teacher” throughout my career have little or no respect for what I have just written in the above introduction here. They can’t hear what I am talking about because they are so engrossed in deluding themselves through various methods and degrees of self-indulgence. This avoidance is due to the mania that occurs within humans as a desperate and inordinate desire to be “loved” through human emotion. This deep and futile desire creates an emotional dependency that produces a vicious cycle of depression and self-loathing.

The result of all of this is what the Buddha called “human mischief.” This overt disobedience to the Laws of Karma overtakes most of us in this lifetime and causes us useless pain and suffering. The ignorant often become the arrogant in these matters and consider the results of their Karma’s indiscretions as “unfair” or unwarranted. And though I warn my beloveds about all of this through my many

offerings to them, most just shrug their shoulders and revert to their DNA in order to matriculate their arrogant defiance throughout their lifetime in the emotional form of human mischief.

The essence of it all is that many of us believe that we are “getting away” with our mischief by thinking that what is happening in the world of matter is the proof that what we are “doing” is “right” and “righteous.” If we are getting what we want and seem to be floating to the “top” of the human heap through finances or social strata, we are totally convinced that we are “bullet proof.” Then, of course, we become arrogant through the seeming “success” and start taking liberties with our own well-being. This is a very cavalier move in the spiritual world and sets us up for useless and unnecessary pain and sorrow.

It is this mockery of our lifetime, and the Love that lives within us, to merely exist for some imagined emotional fulfillment that in the end causes us the endless painful Karma that follows us from lifetime to lifetime until we “get it.” I have talked to the public for over forty years on this subject and to little or no avail. Most people would rather chase after their emotional needs that originated in childhood than mature into the state of authentic Love. Most people are just too committed to their DNA and the origins of their fears to be able to see the damage that they do to their own inner well-being, much less being able to see how they define themselves through their lack of consciousness.

My students are very interesting to me. I give them beautiful Meditations, Workshops and Retreats. I counsel with them weekly to help them come to the place where they can begin building a lifetime around the essence of Love. But in all I give them and do for them and show them – only a few of them are willing to really step out of their comforts and heritage, which includes their DNA and past history, to come to a place where Love can live them.

Most of the people I try to help are totally committed to and captured by their human heredity and psychological roots through which their parents infected them by means of all sorts of abuses. Some of these inequities were harsh and others, the more dangerous kind, were what Buddha called the “soft fetters” that coddled personal weakness and promoted the state of entitlement. In other words, we just live recklessly off of our lineage with no sense of seeking well-being through a more elevated spiritual path.

One of my more woeful students came to me and told me that he was miserable and that his job and wife were just driving him into depression. I made a few suggestions in order to help him, but they would have pushed his “life” too far and he would have caught “hell” from his family should he have begun to bring his spiritual practice into his lifetime. A spiritual practice is fine as a mere philosophy! But to actually change the way one lives and upset the “comforts” of a meaningless lifetime is just asking too much of people. He told me that he was “depressed” with his life the way it is, but very “comfortable” living in his gratifications that diverted his attentions so he would not see what he is doing to himself. You see, the results of comforts brought forth his depression.

Another student came to me after telling her boss off in a most arrogant manner that she was haplessly incompetent. Of course, a huge blow up occurred and she lost her job. Still another student called to inform me that that she was leaving her husband

for a wealthy man who could “take care of her.” She rationalized it all by telling me that it would be best for the kids. Funny though...the kids wanted to stay with the father!

All of this mischief which people live and enact comes down to the philosophy that many people embrace which has made them ruthlessly unkind and, hence, brings forth a Karma that is deeply painful. It was voiced by another student I have who quite literally and single-handedly insulted a member of his staff in a way that resulted in legal actions. When I asked what was the idea behind it all, the student just said nonchalantly: **“THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS.”** Of course, this phrase is what he was taught as a child, so I was told. Hmmmmm.

This phrase is very significant and gives cause to examine what we are really living by and for in this world. When you look at your life, would you say that your “MEANS” (a system by which a result is brought about) actually “JUSTIFIES” (a good reason for the way you do something) the “END” (the final desire fulfilled)? Most people jump to this assumed conclusion by living in unconscious impulse that is rarely questioned. The only thing that seems to matter to most of us is that we get what we want no matter how unkind or ruthless our actions may be. The “END” is the only thing that is important. In fact, I have had many a person in my day rationalize their mischief by saying to me that the “END” was the only thing that mattered.

But in conscious living, in allowing Love to live me, the “END” is not the point. The “MEANS” is the “END” and the results are actually of no real importance. This is what it means to live in an authentic spiritual practice. The journey to anything is the meaning of everything. The mania that most of us display through our ruthless rationalized cruelty only creates a Karma that we force ourselves to endure through many lifetimes. The real sad aspect of all of this is the pride factor. Many people are very proud of their cruelty and use it as a way to demonstrate what is called “personal power” or the taking of one’s “power back” as it were. All of this is a dangerous ploy of the ego and shows our spiritual ignorance as well as indifference toward LOVE.

If we are going to be intelligent about living...then we must not see what we “want” as being the goal. It must be clear to us what “means” we will use. One thing I have learned over the many years that I have been a teacher is the effect KARMA has upon our ability to draw to us what we need and want. To the person who is aware of their Karma, the “means” is more important than the “END.” So the KARMA must be taken into account as to how to apply the “means” that will overcome the KARMA that has been established in this world and other lifetimes. In other words...due to my KARMA I am going to be privy only to those things that I am in harmony with through my KARMA.

This suggests that we will not be able to have everything that we may “want” due to our lack of awareness of the Karma that we have in this lifetime. We will get what we “need,” even though most of us simply cannot recognize this vast truth due to our dimness caused by a lifetime lived in selfishness and greed. All of this is thoroughly rationalized by our ego.

So what does this mean to you? It means different things for different people. Some of us will have circumstances that are favorable to our needs and even our wants.

due to the KARMA that we have. Others of us will not have this favor due to our past and present issues in KARMA and will have to seek awareness over our own inner issues before the “MEANS” can even be understood or realized.

We are all created with equal potential, but we are not all equal. The state of our awareness about what we have brought into this lifetime as far as our KARMA is concerned is the key element that most of us overlook. When we just want what we want...and do whatever we need to do to get what we want, we show the skill to get something, but in the end the greed and emotions of inferiority will overcome us and what we “get” will be lost because it was not ours to have in the present state of mind that we are currently coddling right now.

The old Buddhist story of the five hundred monkeys is a prime example. Please read this and you will understand.

Once there was a monkey king who looked down the walls of a canyon and saw the bright moon reflected on the water. “Oh, what a beautiful jewel--I must have it,” he thought.

When he told this to the other monkeys, they all said it would be very hard to obtain, but the monkey king said, “I have an idea. One monkey will hold on to a tree and everyone else will form a line, each holding tightly to the tail of the monkey in front. Then we can lower our monkey chain down to the water and the last one will be able to reach the jewel.”

So 500 monkeys dangled one by one down to the water, but the weight of all the monkeys was too much for the one holding on to the tree and all 500 monkeys fell into the water and drowned.

So did the “END” justify the “MEANS” here? Most of us just will not and cannot recognize this story for what it is. The 500 monkeys did not have to die seeking for something that really was not theirs to have nor even truly existed. This story has much to do with our life. We chase after one illusion, then another and another. It is endless and we simply do not recognize what is happening to us. Our ruthless ways go undaunted, while our authentic accomplishments are little or nothing at all in this lifetime.

This raises the question: WHAT WOULD BE A REAL ACCOMPLISHMENT in this lifetime? Well I have said it many times...and I will say it again. **LIVE FOR THOSE THINGS THAT YOU CAN TAKE WITH YOU THROUGH DEATH.** What is that? It is the degree of LOVE that is represented by your lifelong pursuit of kindness, compassion and loving forgiveness. Success in this world means nothing. Remorse for how we obtained the *success* we may have in this world means everything. Not a popular thing to say. But it is true. If you “get this,” you know. If you don’t...well, Karma will reveal to you the power of this insight in the only way it can, through the life that you are living. It can get rough and tumble, my dear one. It is all up to us and how we deal with our many emotions.

We are not here to ignore the meaning of our life by being obsessed with circumstances. We are here to recognize the meaning of each circumstance and all occurrences that we may be facing. It is all about Love, and the person who realizes this lives to YIELD and overcome themselves...and hence, their KARMA. This is

living as authentic intelligence. It is here that the “END” is the “MEANS” and transforms our KARMA into LOVE. You are LOVE. To realize this is more powerful than my urgings could ever invoke upon you. You must learn this for yourself. As a teacher I can only remind you of all of this.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

This week it might be helpful to consider what has “become of you” inwardly. Are you haplessly addicted to emotions? Does fear motivate you as “love?” What are you seeking to accomplish in this world beyond your earthly desires? All of this is not stuff people want to think about. So if you don’t...you know where you are. If you do and you are insulted...you know where you are. If you can really ponder this...then you KNOW.



RECOGNITION

“If you have grasped the purpose of life, there is no point in trying to make life into something it is not or cannot be.”

Chuang Tzu

All through this Commentary I have sought to help you understand the meaning of your Karma as your life. I often used the word “recognize,” if you noticed. The word, “recognize” means: **“to know again.”** This is very important in spiritual work. Most people can’t “know” anything that they do not see personal benefit in. So all they can “think” and anything they can “know” must be some carrot dangling from their nose. The carrot must be something “good” or gratifying.

But in order to self-realize the direct experience, we must be willing to “know again” the meaning of our Karma as it lives within our individual lifetime as a powerful presence. Learning how to recognize this presence is what inner work is all about. If we can recognize that glass ceiling that we are constantly hitting our heads against in our lifetime...we will understand something that is very important. Please listen, as this will not be easy for the ego to swallow.

When we are willing to “know again” our inward state of being, it will become very clear to know the meaning of this lifetime, and even our fate, from the state of our Karma. In other words, our human limits will reveal the reality of our Karma in this

lifetime and actually help us “see the field” of our lifetime and give us a direct path to LOVE. It is here that our lifetime is liberated to Love.

Epictetus, a Greek philosopher, said this about true freedom in this lifetime:

Freedom isn't the right or ability to do whatever you please. Freedom comes from understanding the limits of our own power and the natural limits set in place by divine providence. By accepting life's limits and inevitabilities and working with them rather than fighting them, we become free. If, on the other hand, we succumb to our passing desires for things that aren't in our control, freedom is lost.

You see, Epictetus understood that we have “natural limits” that are placed in our lifetime by “divine providence,” which is another word for Karma. By recognizing these limits and accepting them for what they are...a guide to Love...we become free of our Karma and come to a moment where Love is real. The whole effort is not to want more than our life purpose can support. This is real wisdom. The wisdom to totally live for the “means” that is the “end.” To get to this place one has to be very willing to live in a Love that is greater than the desires one might have about “love.”

To seek a Love that is greater than human love is the total MEANS of a lifetime. Few of us humans are willing to live for this. We succumb to emotional needs and gratifications. We make family, food and friends far more important than the MEANS of living in Love. This is why when we are in our youth we want to “have a family,” as I have been told a thousand times by the emotionally insecure. Yet, here is what Jesus said about all of this:

And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. And he that takes not his cross and follows after me, is not worth of me. He that finds his life shall lose it, and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it.

Ah, not what your minister and Priest taught you? You see, this is the uphill battle that most of us are just not willing to consider at all. To “lose” our life means that we no longer live for the “end” result of belonging to a group of people that bred us into this world through unconscious sexual intercourse. Most of us were “raised” by parents that had NO clue about the life they were living. They lived and loved out of FEAR and FEAR alone. The product of all of this is the relationship we are having with ourselves. Hence, a deep emotional yearning for the Love we never were exposed to.

In the bottom line of it all...you and I are seeking Love, which is found only through ONENESS. But this Love is not emotional, nor is it parental. The deep FEAR that you feel, both consciously and unconsciously, comes from the absence of recognizing the LOVE that lives within. What most people do is substitute human love for the Divine Love that we are. Our parents did not have this Love nor did they really care to find it. I mean, how many of you had parents that sat you down on their knee to teach you the Way into authentic Love? Not many...I would say. And how many of you who had children sat them down to talk about the *means* of living as being the essence of Love? Not many...I would say again. Yet pride, I am sure, has been the mainstay for many who are seeking to merely succeed in this world at all costs to the Karma that we came into this lifetime with. Pride is more important than the spiritual state of Love to the emotionally crippled human.

We are Love and yet we are NOT oriented toward Love because, as Jesus taught, we are not willing to make that division that is so inwardly necessary. All great Masters such as Lao-tzu, Buddha and Jesus emotionally separated from their families. They lived as the MEANS to no END. When we live for the "family," we live seeking the "END" and ignoring the "MEANS" by living ruthlessly in selfishness and pride. Authentic spiritual work is not for the weak that have succumbed to emotions of pride and fear. Many humans are just trying to find shelter (through self justification) in this world from the human disasters that befall those who ignore the Way.

When a person begins to awaken, ever so slightly, they recognize the catastrophe that is their lifetime in this world. How they have lived as pure hate through a rationalized fear. As Jesus said: *"You will be troubled."* Yes...those of us on the path are "troubled" by our ignorance and deep emotional desires for ruthless "MEANS" that serve our selfish "ENDS." Not a fun thing to teach, much less to read. But it is the fact of our lifetime.

To end all of this in us, Jesus went on to say this: *"I did not come to bring peace on earth, but rather division."* That division is the practice that I speak of. It is the cessation of living for the justification that the "MEANS JUSTIFIES THE END." What we must truly realize is that the MEANS IS THE END. How we do anything...as the ol' Zen saying goes...is how we do everything. Our Karma is derived from the MEANS and is the last word in our living.

Here is my closing story. It is about how to live through the "MEANS" that becomes the "END." My Master gave us this story so many years ago and I have never let it leave me. It is such a gift. I hope it is for you...in your life...now.

Once there was a Sufi mystic who remained his whole life very happy. No one had ever seen him unhappy. He was always laughing, he had become laughter itself. His whole being was a perfume of celebration.

In his old age, when he was dying on his deathbed, he was still enjoying death, laughing hilariously. A disciple asked, "You puzzle us. Now you are dying. Why are you laughing? What is funny about it? We are feeling so sad. We wanted to ask you many times in your life why you are never sad. But now, confronting death, at least one should be sad. You are still laughing! How you are managing it?"

The old Sufi said, "It is a simple clue. I had asked my Master. I had gone to my Master as a young man; I was only seventeen and already miserable. And my Master was old, seventy, and he was laughing sitting under a tree, for no reason at all. There was nobody else, nothing had happened; nobody had cracked a joke or anything. And he was simply laughing, holding his belly. And I asked him, 'what is the matter with you? Are you mad or something?'"

"He said, 'One day I was also as sad as you are now. Then it dawned on me that it is my choice, it is my life.'"

"Since that day, every morning when I get up, the first thing I decide is, before I open my eyes I say to myself, 'Abudllah (that was his name) what do you want? Misery? Blissfulness? What are you going to choose today?' And it happens that I always choose blissfulness."

To choose bliss over sadness makes for an interesting life. Sure there was “sadness” within the Sufi, just like you and me...but he transcended it all through Love. The “MEANS” was the “END.” Instead of just letting his emotions overtake him and cause him to live for the “END” in a ruthless “MEANS,” he chose to live in the constant of bliss as his “MEANS” and, hence, found that the “END” was of no real consequence to him. Even in the face of death...there was NO END for the Sufi.

The same is true for us. If we are willing to live in the flow of ONENESS, we can realize quickly that everything we do matters and all things bring us either to the ONENESS of Love or the hate that comes from FEAR. It is all up to us. We make the difference in our own life.

I have seen much mischief in my day as a teacher from students who live without any inner sense of Karma and the Love that it represents. All they want is the “gold” and they will do anything within their power to bring the “gold” into their lives. Many of them get their desired result...but with a price that they had not counted on. Person after person that I have met live in such a manner as to “get it all,” then find that the “getting” was not the “all” as they thought it would be. Most people just cannot really take much responsibility for their lives and blame it all on their “childhood” or their circumstances or whatever! In truth, it is ourselves that are to blame. We “do” our life to ourselves by how we live with either our emotions or the Heart.

So, as you forget everything here that I have taught you in the next twenty minutes, try to remember one thing...THE END IS THE MEANS...and how we get everything or anything determines the state of our entire life and lifetimes. If you can have some respect for all of this...it will serve you well. Live to **get to know** again your life within you.

Enough of me for today...please forgive me.

Metta to you,

Swami Chaitanya Siraj

(Gregory Penn)

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