

fine & dedicated man, but there are many such & they rarely, very rarely, help towards enlightenment. I declined the title of "Venerable" in the Buddhist church (of Soto Zen), because such things are devices & do not suit me. I belong to no organization.

My 'master' could as well have been a bum who found enlightenment under the stars while hitching a ride on an open freight-car or a man who robbed a bank. In no way do I teach "ethics", although "freedom" curiously enough leads to conduct that seems highly satisfactory in general & never to "meanness". Thus there are NO criteria & one can easily as Shakespeare said be "deceived by ornament" (and by "elevation"). Authors get "accepted" this way, also "princes" of the Church, the Pope, Bishops, great scientists & psychologists, philanthropists, millionaires (!!), political figures, --- famous persons. Pass them by for this is Dead Sea fruit - but the dog of the mind "investigates" every lamp-post - and in plainer English how hard it is to reject the thousands of fascinating paper-backs & other publications. Yet I might ask you not to read anything of the sort (unless prescribed). Certainly you can have only one Master at a time. This is not a case of picking up a trifle here & a trifle there. That you have done so far. It seems I am drifting from the Master to the Student so let us do so officially under the caption:

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"Ego<sub>1</sub> and Ego<sub>2</sub>" (Devices to preserve Egocentricity)

We do not pull flowers up to see how they are growing, but Ego (Self!) cannot endure being out of the driver's seat and so even in the "work" he tries to be both objective & subjective. To be specific Ego<sub>1</sub> wants to watch the progress of the work with an occasional criticism or pat on the back for the M.

"How shall we handle Ego<sub>2</sub>", is asked by Ego<sub>1</sub>? Or - "I don't think I (who is "I"? - why Ego<sub>1</sub>) would have handled me (Ego<sub>2</sub>!!) quite that way." Or ~~response~~: "Fine," says Ego<sub>1</sub>, "that's showing him" (Ego<sub>2</sub>)

This schizoid device preserves Ego<sub>1</sub> at the expense of a fictitious Ego<sub>2</sub>!! You have already started this process.

Sometimes Ego<sub>1</sub> will say he is "seeking" & does not DESIRE TO FIND. What is this? A pleasure merely in the action of the reason? Apparently - In any case Ego<sub>2</sub> is not even necessary here. Ego is asserting the utmost "doubt even of doubt" & refusal to go even as far as the word "the" without definition. It is a sound & invulnerable position. So is advanced psychosis, but that seems more restful - at times! Such a position (like solipsism) is fine when one is healthy, happy, young & immortal. It gets an awful kick later.

Ego<sub>1</sub>, for all that, sometimes feels that his constant observation of Ego<sub>2</sub> ("self-consciousness") is unsatisfactory. He may feel

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