

Oct 6, 1960.

Dear Dick,

I do not remember past lives, I do not know if I had any or will have future ones. I can not levitate & even if I could it would prove something with regard to gravity but nothing transcendental.

It is desirable not to lose oneself in this field of magic and the false "occult."

Your "sifting many of the world's religions" would not help you unless you recognized that they did not spring from an extension of primitive fertility rites (both sex and agriculture!) but rather, around. BC 850-500, from INDIVIDUALS who brought direct experience into the various practices so well described by anthropologists like Frazer, Haddon (under whom I studied) and others.

Such INDIVIDUALS were Jesus, Santama, Lao Tse, Moses etc.

They could not verbalize their "experience", but they did say something - which was a compromise and thus containing popular, crude & in fact false elements along with some hints of what they could not put into words.

They described the mystery they found as God, Brahman, the Tao, Jehovah, & so on. Names merely. Only in experience is the meaning or 'referent' known.

So this is WHAT they found.

The next question is HOW they found it & HOW others can find it.

Again there is UNANIMITY world-wide.

[No amount of examination of the outside world, scientific or otherwise will do this. Every discovery man makes leads him only to the next & so on without end. Molecules to atoms to protons to mesons - and what smaller thing will come next --- Planets to suns to galaxies to a universe --- Fascinating & endless. In fact the "nature" of things is not arrived at. We find that all is "energy" or "mind" but cannot define such things ---]

Thus the search is into ONESELF: "γνῶθι σεαυτὸν"  
"know thyself."

Then it was found all over the world, in all ages, that the SELF acts as an OBSTACLE to the light coming in. Can we remove the SELF? No! only by dying. But the SELF in itself is not the obstacle, it is the FIERCE CONTENTION of the SELF that it is the FINAL COURT OF APPEAL, the final JUDGE, the "owner" of the organism, the boss, & so forth.

It was found that to remove this DECIDING & JUDGING FUNCTION by a DECISION or a JUDGMENT is RIDICULOUS because we cannot DECIDE NOT TO DECIDE because we are STILL "deciding" even in that.

PROBLEM!

So people tried ~~austerities~~, starvation, flogging themselves, over  
hell