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NO CENTRE, LOVE IS THERE

— J. Krishnamurti

Freedom from the Known

Can the mind come upon love without discipline, without thought, without enforcement, without any book, any teacher?

In this torn, desert world there is no love because pleasure and desire play the greatest roles. Yet, without love your daily life has no meaning. And you cannot have love if there is no beauty.

Beauty is not something you see—not a beautiful tree, a beautiful picture, a beautiful building, or a beautiful woman.

There is beauty only when your heart and mind know what love is. Without love and that sense of beauty there is no virtue, and you know very well that, do what you will—improve society, feed the poor—you will only be creating more mischief, for without love there is only ugliness and poverty in your own heart and mind. But, when there is love and beauty, whatever you do is right, whatever you do is in order. If you know how to love, then you can do what you like because it will solve all other problems.

So we reach the point: Can the mind come upon love without discipline, without thought, without enforcement, without any book, any teacher or leader—come upon it as one comes upon a lovely sunset?

It seems to me that one thing is absolutely necessary, and that is passion without motive—passion that is not the result of some commitment or attachment, passion that is not lust. A man who does not know what passion is will never know love because love can come into being only when there is total self-abandonment.

A mind that is seeking is not a passionate mind, and to come upon love without seeking it is the only way to find it—to come upon it unknowingly and not as the result of any effort or experience. Such a love, you will find, is not of time; such a love is both personal and impersonal, is both the one and the many.

Like a flower that has perfume you can smell it or pass it by. That flower is for everybody and for the one who takes trouble to breathe it deeply and look at it with delight. Whether one is very near in the garden, or very far away, it is the same to the flower

because it is full of that perfume, and therefore it is sharing with everybody.

Love is something that is new, fresh, alive. It has no yesterday and no tomorrow. It is beyond the turmoil of thought. It is only the innocent mind which knows what love is, and the innocent mind can live in the world which is not innocent. To find this extraordinary thing which man has sought endlessly through sacrifice, through worship, through relationship, through sex, through every form of pleasure and pain, is only possible when thought comes to understand itself and comes naturally to an end. Then love has no opposite, then love has no conflict.

You may ask: "If I find such a love, what happens to my wife, my children, my family? They must have security." When you put such a question you have never been outside the field of thought, the field of consciousness. When once you have been outside that field you will never ask such a question because then you will know what love is, in which there is no thought and therefore

no time. You may read this mesmerized and enchanted, but actually to go beyond thought and time—which means going beyond sorrow—is to be aware that there is a different dimension called love.

But you don't know how to come to this extraordinary fount—so what do you do? If you don't know what to do, you do nothing, don't you? Absolutely nothing. Then, inwardly you are completely silent. Do you understand what that means? It means that you are not seeking, nor wanting, not pursuing; there is no centre at all. Then there is love.

WORDS

enforcement: ⇨ enforce: force to happen to be done

torn: ⇨ tear

mischief: wrong doing, playful misbehaviour

lust: strong (sexual) desire

self-abandonment: to stop supporting oneself; giving up

oneself ⇨ renunciation

mesmerized: ⇨ mesmerize:

If you are mesmerized by someone or something, you cannot stop watching them or listening to them because they are so attractive or have such a powerful effect.

enchanted: ⇨ enchant: delight: be full of attraction for

fount: fountain; source

POINTS

1. (Y)ou cannot have love if there is no beauty.
2. There is beauty only when your heart and mind know what love is.
3. (W)hen there is love and beauty, whatever you do is right, whatever you do is in order.
4. Love is something that is new, fresh, alive.
5. (L)ove has no opposite, then love has no conflict.