

On self-knowledge, inner light, stillness and the Way

The road to self-knowledge does not pass through faith. But only through the self-knowledge we gain by pursuing the fleeting light in the depth of our being do we reach a point where we grasp what faith is. How many have been driven into outer darkness by empty talk about faith as something to be rationally comprehended, something 'true'. [p.16]

God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiance of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason. [p.56]

To be able to see, hear and attend to that within us which is there in the darkness and the silence. [p.97]

The longest journey
is the journey inwards.
Of him who has chosen his destiny,
Who has started upon his quest
For the source of his being
(Is there a source?) [p.58]

It is not we who seek the Way, but the Way which seeks us. That is why you are faithful to it, even while you stand waiting; so long as you are *prepared* and act the moment you are confronted by its demands. [p.120]

The 'mystical experience'. Always *here* and *now* in that stillness that is born of silence. But – this is a freedom in the midst of action, a stillness in the midst of other human beings. [p.122]

Understand – through the stillness
Act – out of the stillness
Conquer – in the stillness [p.127]

On loneliness and need for meaning

The anguish of loneliness brings blasts from the storm centre of death [p.38]

Friendship needs no words – it is solitude delivered from the anguish of loneliness. [p.8]

our pains and longings are thousandfold, and, in the end, they are all one and can only be overcome in one way. What you need most is to feel – or believe you feel – that you are needed. [p.70]

Beside our need for a meaning, also a need for human intimacy without conventional trappings – for the experience of a circle where power expresses itself in meaningful and beautiful forms. [p.99]

For him who has responded to the call of the Way of Possibility, loneliness may be obligatory. [p.120]

On humility and humour, achievement and attention

Never let success hide its emptiness from you, achievement its nothingness, toil its desolation. [p.55]

They had learned a humility. A humility which never makes comparisons, never rejects what there is for the sake of something ‘else’ or something ‘more’. [p.71]

Goodness is something so simple: always to live for others, never to seek one’s own advantage. [p.89]

“The purer the eye of her attention, the more power the soul finds within herself. But it very rare to find a soul who is entirely free, whose purity is not soiled by some secret desire of her own. Strive, then, constantly to purify the eye of your attention until it becomes utterly simple and direct.” [p.55]

In many matters, profound seriousness can only be expressed in words that are light-hearted, amusing and detached; such a conversation as you may expect to hear from someone who, while deeply concerned for all things human, has nothing he is trying to gain or defend. [p.121]

You have not done enough, you have never done enough, so long as it is still possible that you have something of value to contribute. [p.158]

“- Night is drawing nigh – “So! another year it is. And if this day should be your last:
The pulley of time drags us inexorably forward towards this last day. A relief to think this, to consider that there is a moment without a beyond. [p.61]