GEMS OF WISDOM VOLUME 2 THE SEVEN VEILS OF MAYA

ELDRITCH ESSAYS BY SHUNYAMURTI

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Foreword

Truth is radical. It is so radical-and so subtle, elusive, and immense-that it cannot be grasped by the human mind. Artists who glimpse the Absolute Real are often tormented by the impossibility of adequately expressing Truth in words, music, or images. A few great beings have attained the full Truth by passing beyond ego death into union with the Absolute. Their teachings have become the founding documents of the world's great religions. Other sages have replicated those achievements and thus have succeeded in sustaining the power of Truth through the defiles of history.

But, in the past two centuries, the collective consciousness of humanity has fallen ever further into a materialist, scientistic delusion brought about by the modern ideologies that have broken with all sacred traditions. We have come to depend on technology rather than on Truth for our well-being. And now we have become enslaved to technocratic tyrannies without access to the power of Truth to set ourselves free. We have arrived at the last possible moment in which we can alter our destiny in this dominion of deception and defeat the dystopia that threatens to extinguish our divine spark forever.

The Truth remains beyond the reach of words. Only silence can cross the chasm that separates the unreal from the Real. But the ego-mind denies us entry into such serenity. The mind races day and night, running from Truth. Incessant mental chatter is the eqo's defense against the Emptiness each soul must enter and traverse to re-connect with the Godhead. But the interference pattern set up by trivial diversions and mundane muddles proves an obstacle that few surmount. Many strategies have been devised to overcome the mind's resistance to stillness. Mantras, prayers, physical exercises, breathing methods. mindfulness, and other modes of meditation have been tried. Yet none of them work for most seekers. Our will is not strong enough to command the mind's obedience.

So, we offer another approach: using the mind and its penchant for narratives to gradually raise our vibrational frequency and re-direct our desire toward the aim of stripping away the veils of illusion. Because we live in a sea of words, we use the flow of language to recognize and relate to the

inner creative imagination that stirs one's heart to quest again for the Truth that can only be revealed in art. By embracing the stimulation spawned by the secret allure of the Self who abides beyond the semblance of the worldly sphere, one's awareness is ushered into the bedchamber of our Supreme Being. Here, attention is becalmed. The I-tension is relaxed and undressed until consciousness stands naked, open, undefended. This is the holy moment of the Rapture. The soul is

One way to begin the odyssey to Ultimate Reality is to delineate how the various veils of Maya are woven and what they are made of. We are motivated to learn the secrets of the underlying drive to dwell in fantasy. We must come to understand and sublimate the recalcitrant resistance to the removal of the visionary garments that give us an identity.

ravished by the awesome power of the Real.

Let us honor the Mother Goddess and appreciate how Her beauty has seduced our souls to worship the linguistic attire with which She has seduced us. We already know how difficult She makes it to abandon Her charms. This is why only fealty to the Name of the Father can free us from Her thrall. We must employ the Word of Goddess made into the flesh of fantasy itself. By attending to the Word, we are able to embark upon a symbolic expedition into the Heartland of Her dominion.

Here we must sacrifice the self-image of the child who fears abandonment. The pilgrimage of selfpurification must be made in detachment, with unfailing courage, discipline, and loyalty to the Father. Only through such devotion to the Supreme Self can one escape the fascination and magnetic attraction of the eye candy of sensuous beauty and the sumptuous joys fashioned by the Goddess to gratify the ego's need for love. It is precisely that infantile yearning that must be slain if Liberation is to be attained.

To gain the power to detach and the will to work our way to freedom, it may be useful to reflect upon the power of words to transform the province of projection that is the ego's domain. The word 'think' is the twin of 'thing'. In fact, a thing is nothing more than a thought. The 'world' is made from the 'word.' You might find that 'weird' but not when you understand the latter term meant in earlier times "the power to control fate." Having this power makes one a 'ward,' a guardian of the 'wyrd' of the world. When there are no more 'thinks' arising in the mind–when the space of consciousness is free of contents, completely silent and still, in wakeful Awareness– then things disappear as well. No thing remains. The veils of Maya–which the Greeks pronounced as *Moira*–become transparent to the transcendental Light.

Only the sheer luminosity of Total Presence abides. One must melt the mind utterly into that divine flame. The attention must be held taut in immediacy until the last impulse to emit an egoic thought-form dies in the Fire of Truth. Once purity has reached perfection, then, in an eternal instant, the liberating Light, Power, and Bliss of the Supreme Self will be realized. Union with God will be complete. Until that moment, the mind will strive to attain the goal, and the striving will be the obstacle to its attainment.

This book is intended to help those caught up in the melodramas of apparent existence to see through the sabotage of self-improvement and the futility of any form of fear. One must awaken from the trance of belief in the reality of the conflicts raging among the ego's drives. These are magically projected as an external realm in which titanic struggles are underway. The ego prefers to play a role as a passionate participant in what it regards as the great battle between good and evil. The fate of the apparent world is at stake-but the destiny of the soul is an even higher stake to play for. As the hostility between planetary power blocs approaches its climactic unleashing of destructive force, it is imperative to remember that from the perspective of the Goddess, this is all just play, a tempest in Her teacup. Since only consciousness is Real-without beginning or end, without birth or death-there is no reason to fear and no object worthy of desire.

But the unholy ghost of angst is embedded in the veils of Maya. We must peel them off so that peace can be restored. This is the great alchemical assignment of the yogi. By succeeding in this task of purification, the ego-renunciate graduates from the school of life. Every ego is beguiled by different storylines. But their general patterns can be described as seven levels of developmental dissonance, producing a waveform of oscillating existential fortune. One's circumstances unfold the secret archetypal patterns sealed in the soul.

These essential structures of destiny were long ago translated into mythic stories by poets and sages. Those myths have constituted the vital core of the original science of the psyche. The fables and fairytales of yesteryear were not meant to be taken literally nor were they intended only for children. The myths of every culture describe the inner structure of our bicameral being, split into the syzygy of anima and animus. They show us the paths of maturation that we must take through the lowland swamps of despondency. Then we must enter the phase of climbing upward into the highlands of compassion. Finally, a few of us will ascend to the peak of timeless Presence. This is the victory that every soul must win before time's end, or else go around again on the wheel of birth and death.

Once we relate these mythic motifs to our own lives, we can see how we have been captured by degraded versions of the original archetypal models of divinity. When that is clearly perceived, we can re-model the misshapen patterns of our becoming and peer through them to the deeper truths our lives were intended to attain. But we may need to go through many layers of obscuration in order to reach the bedrock of our Being, the radical ultimate Truth. The prize is Liberation from the game.

What is a Veil of Maya?

Maya is what obscures the Face of God–and thus enables humans to live. But some humans do seek to know God and are baffled by the subtlety of the Absolute. Since God is unmanifest and therefore invisible–in fact, incomprehensible to human intelligence–the Supreme One makes Himself known to devotees by artfully displaying the lineaments of His infinite Being disguised as the world that separates us from His splendor. But only by undergoing the ordeal of ego death can the Face of the Eternal be discerned. The veils of Maya thus accomplish the paradoxical effect of both concealing and revealing God's Will, Goodness, and Beauty.

God is the Absolute Seer, but God is not an object to be seen. But by seeing clearly the veils as they are and understanding what they teach, we are able to have such a powerful vision of the Light of God that the veils become transparent. Thus, the Intelligent Light of God appears within human seers-who become divinized through the act of piercing the illusion-and this reveals our own consciousness to be That which was all along the hidden One. The veils all hide only the One Self.

Many sages say there are seven veils, each of a different gradation of thickness and agitation. Some souls on the quest for Truth receive the grace of having only one veil between them and Self-realization. Others labor under two or more of the intricate tapestries that compose the veils. Most seekers have to peel off all seven, one after another, to finally attain the Ultimate Real.

The description of these veils may provide the information that enables a seeker to peel off the masks of God more quickly and easily. Once a veil's pattern is understood, it loses its fascination. Then the underlying Mystery of God emerges clearly. Those with great resistance to dissolving in the Supreme Light of the Sun of Total Consciousness will have more layers of veiling to remove before the full presence and power of the Infinite Intelligence absorbs the mind in the blissful energy field of the Godhead.

Maya literally means illusion. The veils of Maya constitute the great illusion that we take to be the world. When all the veils have fallen away, no

created cosmos remains. Without the veils, there is no matter, no space, no time. There is only the Supreme Self. Thus has it always been and forever shall be.

Therefore, beware! The unveiling of all the veils of Maya brings an end to the world, an end to time, the end of the illusion of duality–and the end of oneself as a separate being. The One alone is Real. Only the One prevails. The Supreme and Only Self is the Conqueror of Death and the Destroyer of Worlds.

But, after revealing the ultimate Truth, God reveils His world-annihilating Light, Power, and Presence, and then–under the playful direction of the Goddess–a new world will begin. The story of one's journey through the wonderland of Shakti is depicted, chapter by chapter, in the form of each successive veil that must be pulled away to reach the Real. Each veil reconfigures one's identity. Each produces a radical shift in one's vibrational frequency.

With every advance to a more complex and sensitive level of subjectivity, we experience a heightening of our sensitivity to Presence, and gain a clearer perception of the Will and Way of God. Knowledge grants power. Each new veil confers greater levels of awakening to our supramental intelligence.

We are now living through the historic moment when all the veils are dropping away. The final one is on the verge of falling off, bringing the longprophesied moment of revelation and redemption to this fallen world. It is happening just in the nick of time, as our planetary human civilization is now undergoing the agonies of disintegration and death. The world's impending demise has been caused by the human ego's attachment to the stories embedded in the veils, which constitute our collective psyche. When those stories disappear, so shall the world of egos-and the egos themselves. All will soon return to the Luminous Void.

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