

CHAPTER 3

Process of Initiation

The human soul can live in seven levels. If the man is really concentrated or focused on the physical plane and relates everything in the world to the physical body only, we say that man has not taken any initiation yet. He is stuck somewhere — sex, body, and possessions. These are all that occupy his mind. He must make a breakthrough because he has different levels to live on. For example, he has the astral plane, the mental plane, and higher planes. He must travel step by step.

The first thing he is going to do is to look at the physical world and appreciate it very much. The physical world is the world in which we mature ourselves, train ourselves, and eventually graduate from. We are not going to hate the physical world. We are going to love our body and really appreciate whatever the world is offering to us. We must not be identified and attached to it and especially we must not misuse the physical body or the physical world for our own interests.

If you make a breakthrough and detach yourself from the physical plane and really focus yourself on other values, for example, on love and devotion, respect, and gratitude,

you are making a breakthrough by lifting yourself from your basement and entering into another story of your house. That is an initiation. In the meantime, you are expanding your consciousness in such a way that you are involving another world of values.

Initiation is an expansion of your consciousness and a changing of your focus from one level to another level. For example, let us say you were living in the basement and you no longer want to live there. You come to the first story of your house, then the second story, and then the third story. As you transcend your level you expand your consciousness, and as you expand your consciousness, you have more contact with the real world. You do not know yet what your emotional body is, or your mental body or what it means to live in the higher bodies. As you are going from one body to another body, you are going to communicate with your consciousness, and in the meantime, you are becoming a conscious member of the Universe.

You are unconscious now because you are living only on the physical plane. Your house has seven stories and you are living in the basement. How to go from the basement to the first story? That is the first initiation, which means detachment and mastery over your food and eating habits, over your sex habits, over your drinking habits, over your greed, over your identification with physical values. If you can do it, then you have an initiation. It does not matter how much you know if you are still an alcoholic. Even if you know the Bible by heart, or many other scriptures by heart, you do not have one inch of progress in your life if you cannot control your habits.

It is identification and detachment from identification that help you actualize your spiritual visions. For example, a man worships money, land, and possessions. It is good to have everything that God gave us, but we need to have control over them. If not, you become the object that you are worshipping. As the objects change, you become a changeable object. You do not have steadiness. You must have a line on which you will slowly travel for yourself because you are in an ever-changing world.

Initiation is about the mastery of your life. Do not ever think that reading the books, chanting, and praying give you mastery. The most important thing is how you are actualizing the principles that you recognize and understand. There is the principle of friendship. How much of a friend are you and who are your friends. What are you doing in friendship? What does friendship mean for you. If you read a book and it says fantastic things about friendship but you do not have friends and you are not a friend for anyone, then you are not actualizing anything in your life.

Take another example. A person reads books on fixing a car, but he does not know how to work on the car. Or he reads lots about the computer, but does not know how to do anything on the computer. In this way, he creates a very big cleavage within his nature. One side of him becomes a balloon, bigger and bigger with theoretical knowledge. His other side becomes smaller and smaller, and he will lose his balance in life. You are always going to keep one line of understanding and knowledge, and another line of actualization.

How do you know you are traveling from one initiation to another initiation? It is by knowing how much control

you have on each level. Let us say you traveled from physical attachment and identification to the emotional plane. Let us take the emotional plane as love and respect. How much control do you have on your devotion, on your love, on your relationships. That is the stage where your initiation is. People come and tell me they are Fifth Degree Initiates; they are Third Degree Initiates; they are Christ. Last year I had three "Christs" here. Two men and one lady said, "We are 'Christ' and it is better you know about us." One did not even have shoes and one was hungry and asked for five dollars. If this is Christ, it is very surprising for me. You are going to demonstrate in your life how much control and mastery you have over your physical, emotional, and mental planes.

A boy came and said, "I am a Third Degree Initiate." Then after talking for a while he said, "I want to ask you a question. My mind is so upset and confused. I cannot sleep. I can think until morning millions of things contradictory to each other and I cannot sleep and I am losing weight." I told him, "The Third Degree Initiate has total control over his mental agitations." If you are a Third Degree Initiate you will put your head on a pillow and sleep. You will turn off your machine and say, "Mind, you are a machine I am using. Now the gas is turned off. There is silence." That is your test. If you cannot do that, it is better to know where you are so that you can make an effort to change your location, place, and consciousness.

The first thing we teach is theoretical understanding of these mysteries. Then comes practical actualization. If the practical actualization is not there, it is all words; it does not make any sense.

There were several ministers who came to me and said, "We are quitting our church." I asked, "Why are you doing that?" "It does not make sense teaching things we cannot do, people cannot do." Well, start with ABC. Say, "Today, I am not going to lie." It is the easiest thing for you! Try and see if you cannot lie for one month. I will worship you. Then if you pass that test say, "I am not going to hate anyone for one month," and see how many times you hate in one hour. These are tests. Then say, "I am not going to hurt anybody mentally through my thoughts, feelings, or actions." Try these things. If you cannot do them, what is the use of knowing the Bible, these lectures, and so on? It does not help you. You are going to be your own Teacher, watching yourself, trying to bring yourself into line, and say, "I have so many things to be cleaned and directed and straightened." Do it. It is not the knowledge that does it. Knowledge is necessary, but you are going to be working, actualizing disciples. If you do that, things will change in your life and initiation will be an exciting process for you. You will see what you were ten years ago and what you are now. But if you are not initiating yourself, then you are not going to the school of life, and if you are not graduating yourself from that school of life, it means you are living in this world but actually you are dead. That is what Christ said. "Let the dead bury the dead." They are equal to each other. You are not graduating. Imagine being in a class and coming back a thousand times without graduating. There must be something that you strive toward.

Initiation means to have a goal in your life, something to strive toward. What is it? Are you striving to that goal really? Are you doing your utmost to achieve that goal which

is good for you and for everyone else? If you have such a goal, you will create striving because a goal creates polarity. You strive toward that goal and when you strive toward that goal, something happens that is very interesting. Every time you strive toward a goal, you see your weaknesses from A to Z. For example, tomorrow try to build a chair. Immediately when you start to build a chair, you see what you are. You cannot even nail something. You cannot cut straight. You do not know how to do it. The goal exposes your weaknesses. That is why it is important to create goals for people and try to make them achieve, whatever goal it is. But if you do not have a goal, you will never grow up, which means you will never take initiations.