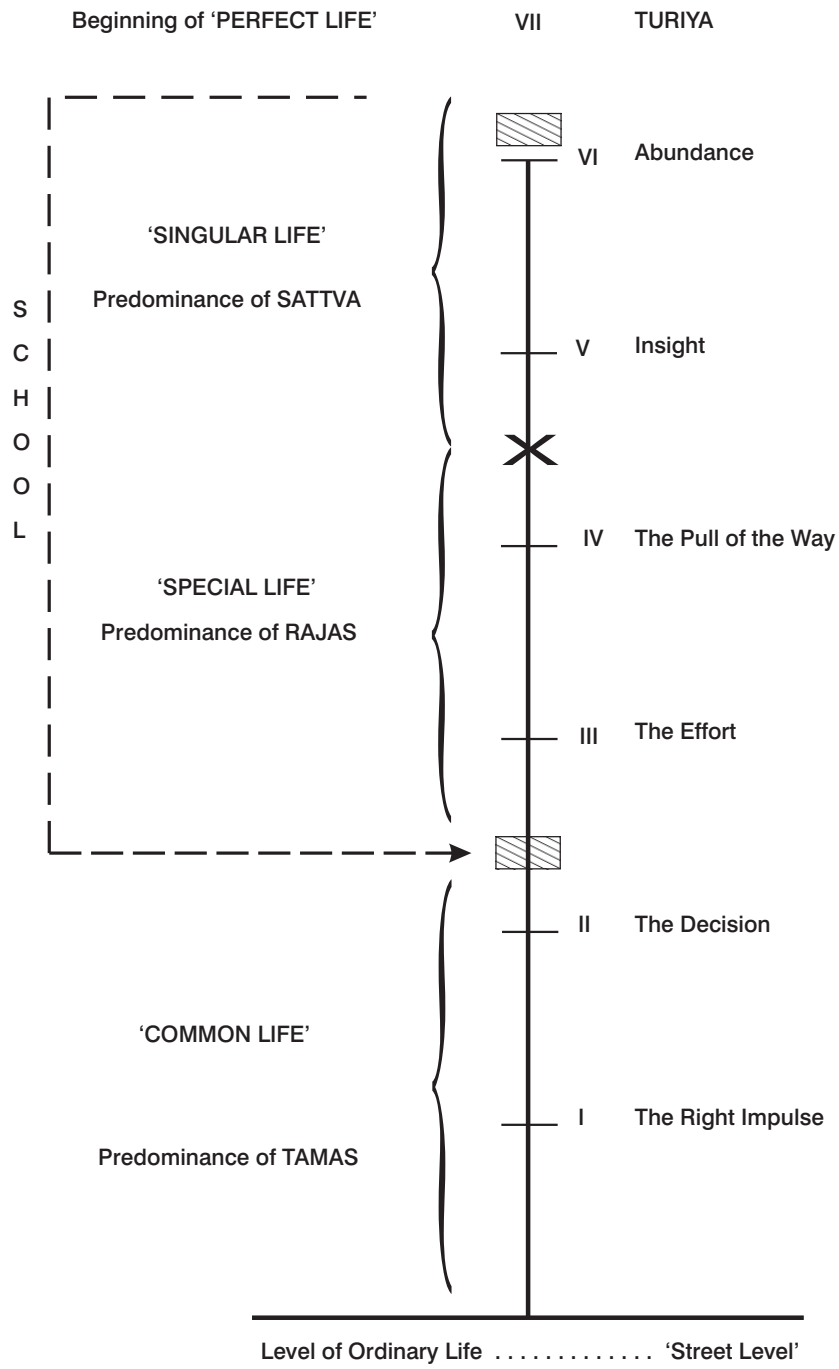


3 December 1962

WILL IN RELATION TO THE NYAYA LADDER

Sunday, 14th October

- Q.1. May we ask to-day about WILL? We know that without Unity and Consciousness there could be no real Will, and that only the fully Realized Man can perform the Will of Atman. We know also that common man has only self-will, the result of conflicting desires. Going up the Ladder, does not each step mean less self-will and more understanding of Real – Universal – Will?
- S. Realized man and common man have different types of will. Common man has many, many wills. Realized man has one Will, and unless that is accomplished he doesn't embark on a second one. The measure is that very few wills are capable of completion; Realized man has real will and can accomplish it; common man has different wills at different times and most of them are never fulfilled.
- Q.2. At 3.00 a.m. the traveller starts slowly with very little will, but by dawn he gets more. Is there not also then an influence like the light of the Sun coming *from above* to help him more and more at each succeeding step on the Ladder?
- S. It is not possible to measure the strength of will from outside; it can only be experienced. The aspirant, as he goes up the Ladder, experiences greater and greater strength of will. Atman is complete; the ignorant does not know the Atman, so he does not know the full strength; but as he goes on and on, the strength of Atman (that is, the Will) is made clearer to him step by step, and he understands it more and more until he reaches the top. The Third and Fourth stages indicate that he is getting quite strong will in himself; and by the time he passes out of the Fourth Stage he has attained so much will that there is no question of his coming down the Ladder again.
- Q.3. At Stage III, he mentioned crystals forming in a man – surely these come from above?
- S. He explains that there are four kinds of Grace, the Grace which comes from above. The first is 'the Grace of the Atman'; the second is 'the Grace of God'; the third is 'the Grace of Knowledge'; and the fourth is 'the Grace of a Teacher'. All these influences combine to crystallize in a person by the time he reaches the Third Stage; and the crystals even at that time are formed which give him enough Power or Sattva to prepare for the Fourth, which establishes that he will not come down later on.
- Q.4. I seem to feel in myself very often what Lord Buddha described as the 'rising up of evil'. Does it not need a little will to keep on meditating in spite of this?
- S. The forces of Evil are always challenging the forces of Good. [N.B. As before defined, 'Good' is that which leads towards, and 'evil' is what leads away from Self-realization.] Whenever anybody takes a step to do good, he has to face the forces of evil. Meditation helps to separate them; and he quotes as an example that if you have allowed somebody to come into your house and stay there and you want to get rid of him, he will resist because he has found shelter and a good place to live in, and he will not easily give in. So you have to gain your own way



THE LADDER OF SEVEN STEPS according to the NYAYA System

and separate yourself from him, and if you have enough strength of will, you will get him out and clean your house – make it pure. So an aspirant has to recognize these forces of Evil and fight to keep his way clear.

R. I feel the need to have much more Will and more constantly, because these evil forces are very quick.

S. That wish of yours is your greatest boon and you can be sure that wish will take you all the further steps.

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Then followed some of the Keertan music prefaced by these words:

This song is in praise of Lord Krishna, and the devotees are asking that all those differentiated desires and feelings should assemble together and unite in loving respect and praise to you.

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STOP PRESS

An answer has just been received from His Holiness to the question about Step II of the Ladder which you asked the other day:

From S.M.J. – 22nd November

The question about how much does one have to know to reach the decision?

S. The Seven Stage Ladder is Ladder of Being through the Knowledge. It is not meant to be ladder of knowledge only. This is the inner ladder, the Ladder of the Self. The Stage I indicates the Magnetic Centre. Stage II is the stage of all our search for our own satisfaction to decide which way to move. Here our Essence plays an important role. In case of worldly education one can give estimate of the time and numbers of books. If one goes through them and appears in annual examination one can easily pass. But in case of these stages one is his own examiner. It is not so much a matter of knowing things, but rather convincing one's own self. Some can decide things earlier than others. Influences of Realized men, good Teachers or a School can be of much use, but none of these can pronounce a decision for the aspirant. Once he has taken the decision (to go ahead) then their influence will be more effective. One cannot generalise in this matter, but a good Teacher should be able to observe the particular needs of the disciple.

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(J.) My impression: The gist of the talk can be very well compared to what you call making silver of the mercury. (Stilling the mind)

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