

To gain knowledge does not mean.....

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To gain knowledge does not mean that automatically you will efface ignorance. Paradoxically, knowledge and ignorance are not two sides of a coin. Increase of one is not always the decrease of the other.

In the spiritual pursuit we tend to focus more on gaining knowledge and less on effacing ignorance. Gaining knowledge is the capacity to quote scriptures and teachers. To get the words right, but to miss the inherent meaning behind them. To hug onto the carcass, and lose the spirit.

If it were so simple to become spiritual that one could do it by reading spiritual books and attending discourses then the whole world would be spiritual. That is, the whole world would have a ready understanding of the Truth.

Dharma is the most difficult thing to know. Truth or Reality, and its path, dharma, have baffled great thinkers since ages. Truth is ultimate Reality, the transcendental, the state of moksha or self-realisation. Dharma is the path to it. It is the capacity to decide on right action.

The choice of action is necessarily based on one's understanding of life; on understanding the laws that govern life. By merely gaining definitions from various masters and books, by merely listening to discourses and speaking about them, you do not find the Truth. You have to execute right actions, be they physical, mental or intellectual. That alone takes us closer to Truth .

The process effaces our ignorance. When ignorance is effaced, Truth stands revealed. How does one move from the stage of pedantic knowledge to removal of ignorance? Ignorance is ignorance of Truth. It cannot be eradicated by accumulating knowledge from the external world. Not all the knowledge prevalent in the world is capable of removing our ignorance of the transcendental Truth, not even spiritual knowledge. However, the same knowledge when reflected upon gives us true wisdom.

The more we are able to reflect upon, cogitate, think about acquired knowledge independently, the more will our vision clear.

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- Dr. Janki Santoke