

478 Krishnamurti (*for more, on my website click ABOUT ... then at the top click Krishnamurti*)

Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895 - 1986) was an Indian speaker and writer on philosophy and spirituality. His subject matters included psychological revolution, the nature of mind, meditation, inquiry, human relationships and bringing about radical change in society. He stressed the need for a revolution in the psyche of every human being and emphasized that such revolution cannot be brought about by any external entity, be it religious, political, or social ... that change has to come from within, and it has to occur in every human being. The reason Krishnamurti resonates so well with me is simple: For much of his early life he was built up as a teacher, a guru or master, even a messiah, but he discarded that baggage in a speech before the Theosophical Society. He thus is one of the few "gurus" who returned from being idolized to becoming an independent proponent of his own teachings, un-aligned with any system or organization. When teaching, Krishnamurti sought to give people the tools to think and learn ... rather than teaching them knowledge: *"I maintain that truth is a pathless land, and you cannot approach it by any path whatsoever, by any religion, by any sect. That is my point of view, and I adhere to that absolutely and unconditionally. Truth, being limitless, unconditioned, unapproachable by any path whatsoever, cannot be organized; nor should any organization be formed to lead or coerce people along a particular path. I do not want followers, and I mean this ... the moment you follow someone, you cease to follow truth. I want to do a certain thing in the world and I am going to do it with unwavering concentration. I am concerning myself with only one essential thing: To set man free. I desire to free him from all cages, from all fears ... and not to found religions, new sects, nor to establish new philosophies."* The key-message for me here is: *"I am concerning myself with only one essential thing: To set man free. I desire to free him from all cages, from all fears ... and not to found religions, new sects, nor to establish new philosophies."* Furthermore, on the subject of meditation: *"Joining one group after the other, this practice, that practice, for me all of those are unnecessary, because then meditation becomes religious; meditation implies freedom from this method, that system ... discard all that, have no burden. That is meditation."* And most pointedly, Krishnamurti expressly frees us from being followers: *"Enquire, without accepting any kind of authority, especially the authority of the speaker sitting on this unfortunate platform. It doesn't give him any authority because he sits on a platform and talks. There is no authority in so-called spiritual matters."* Krishnamurti had previously described his awakening thus: *"I woke up early with that strong feeling of otherness, of another world that is beyond all thought ... there is a heightening of sensitivity. Sensitivity, not only to beauty but also to all other things ..."* He talks here about something I am familiar with, in Zen it is referred to as SATORI. I write about that experience also in my essay WHY MEDITATE? My favourite quote in regard to enlightenment is by K; when asked in a Q and A session about the nature of his enlightenment, how it can be defined, he said simply: *"I don't mind what happens."*