

of deep respect for others. One would not try to thrust on them what one thinks is right. We would respect their own unique path of unfoldment. We would not respond unkindly when something does not suit us or is not pleasant. These are all expressions of self-centeredness. All forms of immorality, greed, anger, corruption, deception in all the small forms in which we practice it - would end. What a great change!

It would also be a change from turmoil and restlessness to profound peace and harmony, because the source of agitation, destructiveness and conflict – one part of the mind wanting something, another part something else – is in the personal desires of the self.

If we say the fundamental change is from wanting to not wanting, there may be some who react 'how is it possible not to want?' If we start thinking that way, we may never change. We must realize that all 'wanting' is bound to end in frustration, because everything that is needed, and more, is within ourselves. Peace is in our consciousness, because it is the very nature of life and consciousness. Life is beauty, life is goodness and the purity of unity. But because we struggle and do not allow that life to flow from within, we suffer from want and seek elsewhere.

Fundamental change is thus many things.-It is change from selfishness to altruism; from strife, inside and outside, to peace; from ugliness – there is a lot of ugliness inside us – to beauty and harmony. It is a change from a state of ignorance to wisdom.

Strife, the feeling of separateness, is a burden the consciousness carries, yet it wants affection, it craves for relationship. Self-centeredness is the epitome of ignorance. We think that ignorance is removed when we have attained what is normally called knowledge. But it is not. What is called knowledge is not knowledge at all. It is merely loading the brain with ideas and much information. The Upanishads, Lao Tzu and other sages declared that he who knows does not know. He who really knows is the one who realizes Unity, which is also supreme beauty, harmony, peace, love, and the wisdom which enables one to act rightly. Knowledge which has no element of love in it, is not knowledge. Wisdom is both intelligence and love, and different from what we ordinarily call knowledge. So we can say the fundamental change is from ignorance to wisdom. It means becoming aware of the true nature of life – its