

Is Knowledge a Boon or a Curse?

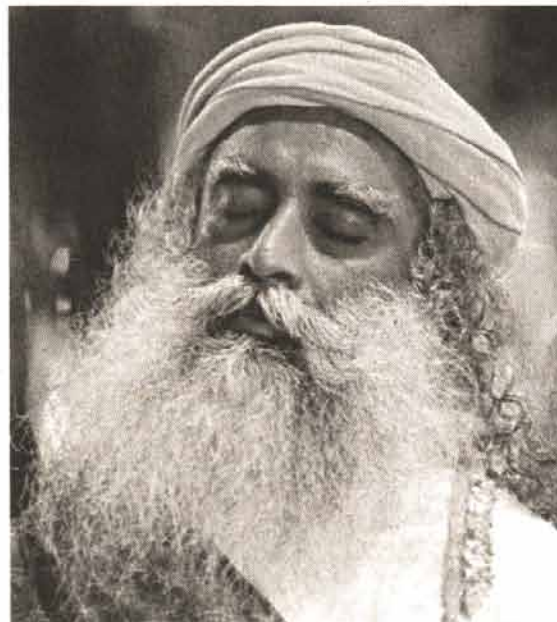
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Knowledge is accumulated information. What you call a cook book or an engineering book is just that - accumulated knowledge. Whenever we want to perform a task, be it something as simple as cooking or as complicated as manufacturing a car, you need accumulated knowledge. You have to make use of the experiences of so many other people, of all the generations that have lived on the planet. If you do not make use of accumulated knowledge, you will have to rediscover the wheel every day. Only an utter fool reinvents something that has already been invented. A wise man uses what has been invented and produces something else for tomorrow.

Now, knowledge about life: when I say life we are talking about this life which is you. You cannot accumulate knowledge about this life because if you come to a conclusion about life from accumulated knowledge it will become prejudiced knowledge. It will not allow you to experience anything afresh. To conduct life you don't need knowledge, you need clarity. Knowledge should not encroach upon your clarity of perception because if it does you won't see anything the way it is; the old knowledge will constantly superimpose itself. Nothing new will ever happen to you.

So to have knowledge and not be identified with it and not allow it to encroach upon your clarity of vision is very vital, because to see things the way they are right now you must be free of knowledge. It is only to know what was in the past that you need knowledge. Knowledge is in your memory. If there



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is clarity, if there is a clear distinction between what your memory is and what the scalpel of your intellect is, there will be no problem. If your memory is stuck to your intellect, then the scalpel will lose its sharpness and it won't cut through anything. It is in that context that I say knowledge has to be dropped.

Intellect is like a knife; the sharper it is, the more easily it cuts through anything. If a lot of things are sticking to it, it won't be sharp and it won't cut through anything.

So if you know how to keep the past in the past and be aware of what is there right now, then knowledge is not a problem. But if you have become knowledge then you have become an accumulation; you only exist because of what you have accumulated in the past and you have no clarity. Then knowledge is a burden.

So when it comes to living life - when I say living life, I am not talking about living, I am talking about living life, right now - you cannot have knowledge about it because it's life. You have to perceive it; you have to know it now. Krishna and Buddha knew it but it doesn't matter what they knew because you cannot experience it through them. You can use their experience but you cannot use their perception. You have to perceive; there is no other way. So it is in that context that I say do not burden yourself with knowledge.

(Next Inner Engineering Program: December 8 at Vasco, January 12 at Panaji and Margao Contact: 9822100305, goa.ishafoundation.org)
(Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, a yogi, is a visionary, humanitarian and a prominent spiritual leader. An author, poet, and internationally-renowned speaker, Sadhguru's wit and piercing logic provoke and widen our perception of life. www.ishafoundation.org)