

THE ETERNAL SOLUTIONS

Enlightenment is finding that there is nothing to find. Enlightenment is to come to know that there is nowhere to go. Enlightenment is the understanding that this is all, that this is perfect. Enlightenment is not an achievement, it is an understanding that there is nothing to achieve, nowhere to go. You are already there—you have never been away, you cannot be away from there. Maybe you have fallen asleep, that's all. Maybe you have got lost in many, many dreams, that's all—but you are there.

So the first thing is: don't think about enlightenment as a goal, it is not. It is not something that you can desire. And if you desire it you will not get it. In desiring a thousand and one things, by and by you come to understand that all desire is futile. Each desire lands you in frustration, each desire throws you into a ditch. This has been happening for millions of years but again you start hoping, again you start thinking that this new desire that is arising in you will lead you to paradise. Again and again hope arises. Enlightenment is when all hope disappears.

It is hopelessness

Don't be disturbed when I say that enlightenment is a state of hopelessness—it is not negative. Hope arises no more, desire is created no more, future disappears. When there is no desire there is no need for the future. The canvas of the future is needed for the desire. You paint your desires on the canvas of the future. When there is nothing to paint why should you carry the canvas unnecessarily? You drop it. When there is nothing to paint why should you carry the brush and the colour tubes? They come from the past. The

Enlightenment is utter ignorance. But that ignorance is very luminous and your knowledge is very dull. One is awakened from a long sleep



By Osho

Enlightenment is a process of unlearning



canvas comes from the future and the colour and brush and technique and all that comes from the past. When you are not going to paint you throw away the canvas, you throw away the brush, you throw away the colour tubes—then suddenly you are here now.

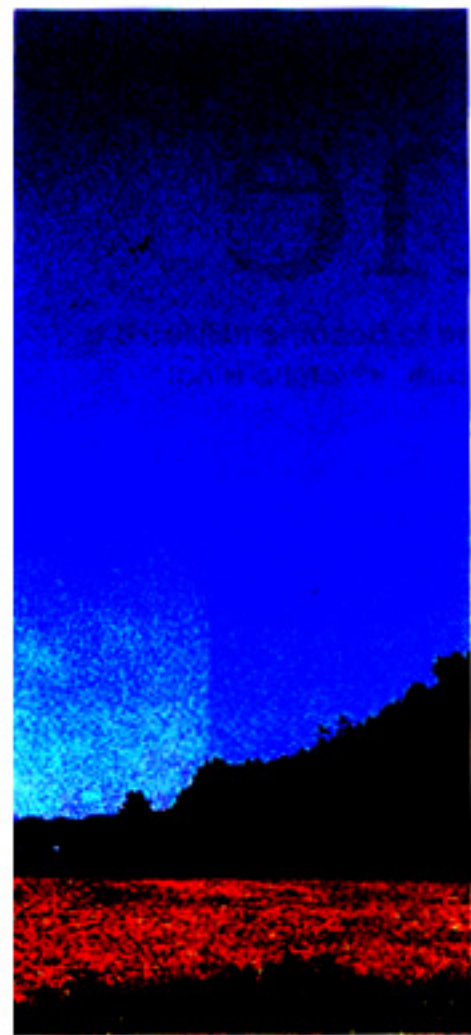
This moment of consciousness can happen any moment, there is no special time for it, there is no special posture for it, there is no special place for it—it can happen in all kinds of situations. All that is needed is that for a single moment there should be no thought, no desire, no hope.

One day a poor monk,

Chikanzenji was mowing down the weeds around a ruined temple. When he threw away a bit of broken tile it clattered against a bamboo tree. All of a sudden he was enlightened. Whereat he sang:

Upon the clatter of a broken tile
All I had learnt was at once forgotten.
Amending my nature is needless.
Pursuing the task of everyday life
I walk along the ancient path.
I am not disheartened in the mindless void.
Wheresoever I go I leave no footprint.
For I am not within colour or sound.

Enlightened ones everywhere have said:



and night. His memory was so perfect he could recite all the scriptures—but still nothing happened.

Then one day he burned his whole library. Seeing those scriptures in the fire he laughed. He left the monastery, he left his guru, and he went to live in a ruined temple. He forgot all about meditation, he forgot all about yoga, he forgot all about practising virtue, and he never went inside the temple to worship the Buddha.

When he was living in that ruined temple, it happened. He was mowing down the weeds around the temple—in that moment of awareness, it happened. In that very clattering of the tile against the bamboo, a shock, a jerk happened and his mind stopped for a moment. In that very moment he became enlightened.

Enlightened in a moment

How can one become enlightened in one single moment? One can, because one is enlightened—one just has to recognise the fact. It is not something that happens from the outside, it is something that arises from the inside. It has always been there but you were clouded, you were full of thoughts.

Remember, there are two kinds of ego goals: one, the worldly, and the other, the other-worldly. Some people are searching for money; some people are searching for power, prestige; some people are searching for *moksha*, *nirvana*, enlightenment—but the search continues.

And who is searching? The same ego. The moment you drop the search you drop the ego also. The moment there is no seeking, the seeker cannot exist.

It is ignorance

Enlightenment is a process of unlearning. It is utter ignorance. But that ignorance is very luminous and your knowledge is very dull. That ignorance is very alive and luminous and your knowledge is very dark and dead. And one is awakened from a long sleep.

Chikanzenji said, "amending my nature is needless." That day he felt he was just struggling unnecessarily. You need not amend yourself, you need not improve yourself.

Beware of all those who go on telling you to improve yourself, to become this or to become that, to become virtuous; who go on telling you that this is wrong, don't do it. Those who go on telling you to amend your nature and improve upon yourself are very dangerous people. They are the one of the basic causes for your not being enlightened. Nature cannot be amended, it has to be accepted. There is no way to be otherwise. Whosoever you are, whatsoever you are, that's how you are, that's what you are. It is a great acceptance—Buddha calls it *tathata*, a great acceptance. Nothing is there to be changed.

How can you change it and who is going to change it? It is your nature and you will be trying to change it! It will be just like a dog chasing its own tail. The dog will go crazy. But dogs are not as foolish as man. Man goes on chasing his own tail and the more difficult he finds it the more he jumps and the more he tries and the more and more bizarre he becomes.

Nothing has to be changed because all is beautiful. That is enlightenment.

"Such as this is the attainment."

Chikanzenji, had been working for at least 30 years. He was a hardseeker, he was very honest and sincere. He practised all that was told to him, he visited many masters, he lived in many monasteries. He did all that was humanly possible. He practised yoga, zazen, but all to no avail. Nothing was happening; in fact, his frustration was growing more and more. More the methods failed, more and more frustrated he became.

He had read all the Buddhist scriptures. It is said about Chikanzenji that he had all these scriptures in his room and he constantly read them day