

Ana and Ravi - answering a question about teachers and drugs

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Many people have the expectation that a wise Spiritual benefactor is going to come down out of the mountains (etc.) and sagely guide them step by step on their path. In the Aquarian Age we are all meant to be Teachers and Healers to one another. There are Senior Teachers / Old Souls who have a lot to share and many people have a kind of soul contract with these Teachers. There is often a culture clash between Eastern Teachers or Teacher of the Eastern traditions and those of us in the West because in the East to be a Spiritual aspirant requires total obedience and the West we have no real frame of reference for that. On the other hand, many of the Eastern Teachers who came here in the 60's got a bit drunk on passion and power. Buddha said, "Don't worship the finger pointing at the moon." The key is balance. We should always verify everything with our inner yogi. There does come a point on the path when proper guidance is indispensable. Hopefully by the Grace of the Infinite a person will be blessed with the type of Teacher with no other agenda than to uplift the student. It's important to always keep one's critical thinking cap on but not to let intellect override devotion.

The answer to your second question is a continuation of your first. Before we go into that let us first say that, yes, in the Aquarian Age we are all Teachers to one another, etc. but actually a Spiritual Teacher is an institution, a fundamental force in the Universe. They hold the door open (to the Infinite) for a student and gives them a fighting chance to make it (cross the ocean of illusion and help them circumvent/resolve their karma before it tightens its noose). The job of a Teacher is actually to create a conflict in a student. The conflict is to decide what is more important: their past (fate) or future (Destiny).

It would be easy/convenient to be a bit patronizing with regard to your second question but we're going to be unequivocal because we feel this is a very important issue. We know that our answer may go against the grain of some people's most cherished notions and we know we run the risk of possibly alienating you but here goes. We believe that:

1. All types of drugs, even ayahuasca and other plant based substances, are ultimately a hindrance to true Spiritual growth
2. They may seem to provide gifts and graces, insights and beauty but these things are fleeting and ultimately not valid because those things have to be earned (there is no freedom which is free!).
3. The ostensible gifts and graces, insights and beauty these substances provide

exact a price

4. That price is life force that can't be replaced and a dependency on something. To be liberated means to be energetically self-generating.

5. We believe that the experience the substances provide is like going to an aquarium and mistaking it for the ocean

6. If you look at the lives of all of the great champions of these various substances (and as we have also observed: the lives of so many people we've know): Terence McKenna, Carlos Castaneda, Timothy Leary etc. you will see that their lives were NOT proof of concept. Terence McKenna who was an advocate of DMT, ayahuasca, etc. died of brain cancer. Carlos Castaneda: liver cancer. Timothy Leary: brain cancer.

7. According to the yogis-and evidenced by the fact that so many people who have adopted a lifestyle based on various substances seem to age less gracefully-many of these substances dry up cerebral spinal fluid (which becomes ojas and which paves the way for Kundalini: Spirit Rising)

8. DMT which is hailed as the "Spirit molecule" is said to create holes in one's pineal gland and make authentic higher consciousness harder to attain.

9. We know that many of these substances can be very therapeutic for those who've suffered trauma etc. but they were meant to be used when there are no other options and no more than once or twice in a lifetime.

10. Many of the greatest Spiritual cultures owe their downfall to substance abuse: Egypt: Peyote, Greece: wine, China: opium, India: marijuana. Yogi Bhanjan pointed out that in the US we have issues with all of these!

11. When we form a dependency on any narcotic it puts holes in our energy field and makes us susceptible to all kinds of negative influences, including lower astral troublemakers. They will confer various temporary gifts upon the unwary but ultimately they are soul stealers or compromisers.

12. Whether you want to take that as a figurative or literal statement, the fact is that despite one's best intentions or highest ideals, the use of substances causes us to lose our essential self. This is a tragic situation and it is destroying our culture in the way that a termite infestation erodes the foundation of a house.

13. We have seen that if someone uses ayahuasca, etc. it becomes very hard to abstain from other types of drugs. Rationalization becomes easier and easier until one has no personal boundaries in this regard.

We hope you don't find all of this too off-putting! One may counter that we're not making a distinction, for instance) between heroin and Advil. Our retort is that yes Advil has its place and if a person is suffering by all means take Advil, but if you find that you need it every day there's a problem that needs to be addressed organically. Daily use of Advil can compromise the liver. Any type of physical (or emotional) dependency is not sustainable.