

PSYCHO-SCIENTIFIC FRONTIERS

Selected publications from a variety of subjects of psycho-scientific research.

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Title : **The difference between a religious person and a spiritual person**

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The word “spiritual” was pretty much unknown about 20 years ago. It was regarded in context with the word “Spiritism” and accordingly connected with the phenomena of moving tables and glasses during séances. Even though both words derivate from the word “Spiritus” (Spirit), the spiritual person has nothing to do with Spiritism.

The word “spiritual” has in the meantime become more conventional and it is no longer confused with Spiritism. The word *spiritual* is used ever more often instead of *religious* and one talks amongst other things, about applying the spiritual in one’s daily life. A religious person is however, as it will be shown subsequently, *not a spiritual* person and vice versa.

Those that deal with the development of consciousness know that the human spirit traverses through *three main stages* on Earth, the *religious constitutes the first* (the pre-rational, according to Ken Wilber) and the *spiritual the third* (the trans-rational, according to Ken Wilber). The *materialistic stage* is found between the two and it constitutes the transition between them, Ken Wilber calls it the rational or personal stage. These three main stages consist of sublevels, but we will not deal with them here.

- *The religious person* behaves like a child that has to be guided, for instance by a priest, the Pope or a guru who tells it what to do and what to leave alone. The religious person wants commandments and interdictions and it requires the forgiveness of its so-called sins.
- *The spiritual person* can be compared to an adult who has left puberty – the materialistic stage of development – behind. It accordingly guides itself, that is to say, it rejects directives – no matter what they are. This person is aware that negative karma can be dissolved on a spiritual

level of development through its own insights. Nobody else can take on its disbandment on its behalf, because it can often also be in conjunction with great misfortunes.

Whilst the religious person is characterised through subconscious memories from past lives and religious traditions (*the thought of development is an alien concept to it*), it is the *experiences* and their associated *intuitions* from the WORLD of SPIRIT (according to its level of consciousness) that promote the development of the spiritual person.

The spiritual level of development can only be achieved when specific prerequisites are fulfilled:

1. That an *approximate balance* between the most important female and male elements exists.
2. The end of the materialistic level of consciousness must have been achieved, namely the insight that *materialism is senseless*.
3. *The search for the meaning of life*, something that is often set in motion after one or a number of fateful events.

The religious person requires, according to its level of development, white magic or rites (for instance Holy Communion or baptism). All of this is *superfluous* to the spiritual person, because its spiritual phase of development no longer requires it. This also includes circumcision, something that indicates an external expression of one's connection with "God" by religious Jews. Such magic actions are obsolete for a spiritual person, because the connection with the Divine (the WORLD of SPIRIT) is *automatically* established through its spiritual level of development.

The Earth represents a 'Valley of Tears' to the religious person. Earth on the other hand, represents the *only place for higher development* for the spiritual person whereby an inner joy is conditional (whether other planets like the Earth exist somewhere else does not matter here, because one cannot journey through the three mentioned main stages of the development of one's consciousness in the WORLD of SPIRIT).

The religious person has a negative attitude towards its body; it represents a dungeon and a necessary evil. The spiritual person however has a *positive* attitude towards it, because it knows that the body is, as a vessel for the spirit, required for its development through the three main stages of the development of consciousness and that everyone configures their own body (through past and the present life); it doesn't feel like a dungeon to it and certainly not a necessary evil.

The religious person must *visit* the Church or PLACES of ENERGY in order to replenish its energy. The spiritual person does not require this, because it absorbs ENERGY from *everywhere*. How powerfully this ENERGY can flow in depends on the height of spiritual development (the spiritual level is arranged in sublevels of various heights of consciousness).

Whilst the religious person struggles to apply its dogmas (the Ten Commandments for instance) in its daily life, something that often fails, the spiritual person does not have that problem, because it knows that *everyone can* only feel and act *according to their level of consciousness*, this does however not mean that there should be no laws (no society cannot exist without laws).

The religious person is not just *dogmatic* but also *intolerant*; only its views (its faith) is regarded as correct, it would rather like to see all other faiths forbidden because they are from "Satan" as far as it is concerned. The spiritual person on the other hand is *open* and *tolerant* towards other points of

view, because other levels of consciousness make them possible and also correct when seen from the respective levels of awareness.

The most negative thing ever for the religious person is having eaten from the Tree of Knowledge (original sin), which resulted in the Expulsion from Paradise. The spiritual person knows that, as a spirit being, it has *voluntarily* stepped away from the Divine in order to return to the Divine with a higher level of consciousness – conditional to the development of consciousness achieved on Earth.

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