

KNOWING WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

Imagine yourself walking on a plain. See cottages, footbridges, crops in fields and animals at pasture. Hear dogs barking, cows lowing, carts rolling. Smell grass mown in the fields, and dung dropped by dogs and cattle.

As long as our knowing is through our senses, we are on this flat plain: the vast spread of sensations—vivid or dim, always changing, uncertain—and without depth of understanding.

In the distance rises a mountain. You've heard rumors on the plain of glories on the mountain—consciousness greater than forms, colors, touch, and taste. It is the mountain of consciousness. It is high and distant, and you approach it.

As you climb, the sounds of towns and travel on the plain fade into the silence of trees and paths on the mountain.

At a terrace of the mountain, for the first time you can see the patterns of fields, roads, and rivulets in the plain below. This is the level of concepts—knowledge of how to tell the difference between one kind of sense object versus everything else.

On a second terrace, you are able to reason with the concepts: You connect concepts to make true thoughts, and connect thoughts to reach logical conclusions. You linger here till you're a master of reason, theory, logic, and analysis.

Reason added to sense perception is empowering. It lifts you up to the mountain's third terrace—intuition and inspiration. You still see the fields and objects of the flat plain of sensation. You still know the concepts and thoughts of the lower terraces of the mountain. But you **witness** the senses perceiving forms. You **see** the mind thinking. This transcendence gives you the ability to still

your mind. It opens inspiration and begins creativity. You tarry here a long time. Then you move to the mountaintop.

The peak of the mountain of consciousness gives you insight into everything: You look upon the plain of sense perception and understand any object or process you focus on. You reflect on theory and have insight into whatever question you want. You start to pick up others' thoughts. Paranormal awareness is the peak of the mountain of knowing—but you are not one with the mountain. You are still separate from the gross and subtle objects you know.

Where is there to travel to, when you have reached the top? Into Oneness. You leave your mind and body behind. You dissolve into the sky—boundless knowing. The sky contains the mountain, the plain, the entire earth, the galaxies, and all mental forms—in one undivided whole. All gross and subtle forms arise out of and dissolve back into it—and It does not change. There is only the infinite space of boundless knowing.

Let us rest for two minutes, in empty, unbounded clarity, without thoughts.