

An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality R1



by Steve Beckow, Founder, Golden Age of Gaia

Vancouver: Golden Age of Gaia, 2015

Table of Contents

An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 1/7	3
An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 2/7	5
An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 3/7	8
An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 4/7	12
An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 5/7	16
An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 6/7	19
An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 7/7	24

An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 1/7



The notion of an integrated, direct, and unitive spirituality arose in a conversation between members of InLight Universal, a lightworker radio team. It was a collaborative effort and represented one future direction we were considering taking.

Perhaps I can help that undertaking by offering some initial thoughts on that subject.

If we're to have an integrated, direct, and unified spirituality, we have to answer the question why? Why would we want such a thing? What need is there for it? What benefits does it offer us?

These questions cannot be answered without knowing and understanding that there's a purpose to life, that life is not a random process but an intelligently-designed one.

We talk about life being empty and meaningless. Nasty brutish and short and then you die ... so live it up. Etc. etc.

The thrust of these statements is not true. Life is rich and full of love, endless, and worth traversing intelligently for the bliss that that can bring us.

To agree that life has a purpose, you'd also have to agree that there's a God.

If you agree to that, then the purpose of life for all of us created beings is to know our true identity, our true essence, and in the knowing eventually merge with, the God that we all are.

Everything is God. There isn't a blade of grass that isn't. But only some beings actually know that they're God. It's this knowing that's missing for the rest of us.

The purpose of life is to know ourselves as God and ultimately to merge back into the Transcendental Void that God is.

That isn't the end. We emerge again, according to Archangel Michael, as and when we're needed.

If God could be said to have any purpose in anything, God's purpose in creating this whole dream-world that God then goes and lives in would be "delight." He/She (God has no gender) created it to see and experience Him/Herself in a moment of our enlightenment.

At that very moment, God meets God and for that meeting was all of this created.

Worlds upon worlds, universes upon universes were created by God wearing another mask (not to get ahead of myself) so that God could meet God for His/Her own delight.

Tomorrow we'll discuss the "why" of spirituality.

An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 2/7



What we've done so far is to suggest that life has a purpose. That's one "why" of spirituality. Why study and practice spirituality? Because you'll thereby fulfill the purpose of life.

And, if and as you do fulfill that purpose, along the way you experience love, bliss and all the truly good things in life. Having them is another "why" of spirituality. Even for an archangel.

Here's Archangel Michael acknowledging that even the archangels profoundly enjoy the bliss:

"The bliss and the oneness, even for what you would think of as a millisecond, can keep us going for millennia."(1)

Now if you accept what I've said so far, then you may find yourself accepting ... well, everything spiritual.

Because if you accept that this world - and all other worlds - was created by a God for a purpose, then all we need to do is to unroll that purpose, the plan that goes with it, the main actors, the supporting cast, and what it is we need to do to realize that purpose.

But, if I were to do that, this would remain an unfinished book because only a spiritual teacher can tell you "what it is we need to do to realize that purpose." That is where I hand off the baton to others because I'm not an enlightened being, not even in the slightest, and only enlightened beings can and should answer that question.

But there's still much ground to cover. We now have our purpose and, seeing that life has a purpose, we immediately pass beyond the reach of empirical-materialist philosophy (the philosophy that holds that only what we can see and touch is real) and into the pondering and the knowing of the unseen, the inter-dimensional, the mystical ... oh, the cat is definitely out of the bag now. No going back, I'm afraid.

Instant transformation from the purely materially-minded to the spiritually-minded.

Now our karma begins to straighten out. We're not so erratic in life. We come upon concepts like "spiritual laws" and our curiosity becomes piqued. We hear about ascended masters and even read some messages from them.

We become aware of a whole different stream of life that's been passing by us, invisibly, since forever. Finally we hit upon a few names for it - the Perennial Philosophy, the Ancient and Ageless Wisdom, the Dharma. Life. Truth. Love. God.

We start to have mini-satoris, Aha! moments, realizations. What previously in general sat with us as just an idea now starts to come alive for us. We start to ache and itch for more.

We feel other strange new feelings. Gosh, I feel good. I feel so elevated. I really soared when I saw that last point. What about you?

Finally we have a name for that too. We call it "bliss."

By now we're restless, but never think of it that way. The stirrings of love for what we're doing are traceable to a device that God implanted in us, the best device we'll ever get, bar none.

Some call it the longing for liberation; others the urge to awaken. It's a homing device that God implanted in us to call us, lead us, and bring us home. (2) Speak of pre-destined and pre-determined.

Tomorrow we'll introduce the three main characters in the drama of life.

Footnotes

(1) "Archangel Michael: Back to the One with the Speed of Love," July 16, 2013, at <http://goldenageofgaia.com/2013/07/16/archangel-michael-back-to-the-one-with-the-speed-of-love/>.

(2) "The Longing for Liberation at http://goldengaiadb.com/L#Longing_for_Liberation and http://goldengaiadb.com/The_Nature_of_Life_1#The_Longing_for_Liberation

An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 3/7



Hildegard of Bingen's representation of the Trinity: The Father is the outer ring; the Mother is the inner ring; and the Child of God is suspended in the Mother though part of the Father

To go further, we must introduce the three main characters. If you notice, almost any book on non-dualistic philosophy you pick up starts by introducing the three.

Well, One really. ... No, Three-in-One.

It's a bit confusing.

Let me put it this way. There is the Source of everything, the One. That Source existed in nothingness and wanted to be known and to know itself. As Ibn Arabi put it: "I was a hidden treasure and I loved to be known, and I created the creation so that I be known. (1)

So it determined to create a very long dream for itself. It dreamed it was a Creator of worlds (and so it was).

And, as that Creator of worlds, it created and created and never stopped creating. And it made a delightful game of it.

It determined that the One who was all and filled up the whole room, so to speak, would task all the playmates it had created with the job of realizing who they really, really are. Not name. Not job. Not accomplishments, but really are.

Of course who everyone and everything really, really is is God.

So now, with these playmates, there are three. There is Source and Creator and the Created, a third class of beings tasked with realizing they are God.

And as sentient beings become enlightened, more and more are very much aware of these three beings. And so they begin to name them.

The Source

Hindus name the Source Brahman, Parabrahman, Paramatman, and many other names. Christians call the Source our Father which art in Heaven. Buddhists call it the Buddha essence. (2) Taoists call it the Tao, the Way. Others call it Ahuramazda, the Inner Sun, Father/Mother God, the Void, Nothingness, the One.

I've always called the Source the Father.

The Source cannot be "known." It is beyond the reach of our minds or any other way we have of knowing. Of it nothing positive or negative can be said because no one has seen it or touched it, etc.

That's why we turn to the second character in this movie to know everything that's happening - the action, our missions, progress, and everything else.

The Creator

When the Source dreams, it dreams itself as a creator, preserver, and transformer of worlds. The Source Itself is still and silent. The Creator that the Source dreams into existence is active and soundful. (3) The Creator is as close to the Unknowable as we can get. We know what we know of the Source because the Creator has told us.

Hindus call the Creator the Divine Mother, Shakti or Energy. They also know her as Aum, the universal, creative vibration that she is, Prakriti (Latin: Procreatrix), Maya, Kali, Durga, etc.

Christians call her (4) the Holy Spirit. Others have called her Wisdom (Sophia), the Word, the Sound-Brahman, the Womb of God, the voice in the wilderness, the noise of many waters, etc.

I've always called the Creator the Mother.

The Created

Every sentient being is essentially like an ice-cream bar. Ice cream dipped in chocolate roughly describes the divine spark of the Father that we all are, dipped in the Mother's material coating.

The human pro-creative act mimics the divine creative act, I imagine the better to remind us of our origins. The purpose of our lives begins to be fulfilled when we see the light of the divine spark of the Self as the kundalini energy reaches the fourth or heart chakra. This is called by Hindus "spiritual awakening" and by Buddhists "stream-entering."

It continues to be fulfilled when the kundalini reaches the sixth or brow chakra and we realize the Divine Mother. This is called cosmic consciousness and by Hindus savikalpa samadi (samadhi with form persisting).

It continues when the kundalini reaches the crown or seventh chakra and we realize the Father. This is called by Hindus Brahamajnana or God Consciousness or nirvikalpa samadhi (samadhi without form).

This is part of the journey of Ascension.

Once the kundalini reaches the spiritual heart - the end of its journey - we're liberated from the need to be born back into the Third and Fourth Dimensions of gross materiality.

But there's much, much more.

This divine spark is known to the religions by many names: as the Self, the Christ, the Atman, our original face. Other names for it are the lamp always burning on the altar (of our hearts), a firebrand plucked from the burning, and Fire the Son of the Lord. It is the messiah, the Prince of peace, the pearl of great price, the treasure buried in a field, etc.

I have sometimes called it the Child of God but more often I call it the Self.

These then are the chief actors in this drama. Two of them exist in a film within a film, a dream that Source is having. Let's now look at the script for the movie, known as the Divine Plan.

Footnotes

(1) Muhyideen Ibn Arabi, *Kernel of the Kernel*. trans. Ismail Hakki Bursevi. Sherborne: Beshara, n.d., 3.

(2) "There is but one common essence." (The Buddha in Dwight Goddard, *A Buddhist Bible*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1966; c1938, 283.)

(3) I created the word to fill a gap.

(4) She is not a "she"; he is not a "he." God is beyond gender. The use of gender is for educational purposes.

An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 4/7



Krishnamurti once said:

"The really important thing is ... the knowledge of God's plan for men. For God has a plan, and that plan is evolution.

"When once a man has seen that and really knows it, he cannot help working for it and making himself one with it, because it is so glorious, so beautiful." (1)

The Divine Plan is the overall script for life.

I was given a glimpse of it in 1987, a wordless tableau that showed the progress of an individual soul from its birth from God to its return to and merger in God. (2) It lasted eight seconds in etheric time, but not a second passed in the world's time.

It left me bathed in bliss and knowing the end of the film! Did that spoil it for me? Not at all. In fact, as Krishnamurti said, it enthralled me and launched

me on twenty years of study before I found words for the wordless event I had seen that day.

And guess what? It all works out in the final reel. Just like the critics say.

The very best description of it that I've seen was just a remark by Jesus: "I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father." (3) Exactly. That was precisely what I saw in my vision in its most general form. His remark serves as bookends to my experience. It began with the Self leaving the Father and it ended with the Self's return.

I've never seen a detailed description of the Plan. That doesn't mean there isn't one out there. Perhaps something like the Rosicrucian Cosmoconception is such a document and I didn't appreciate it at the time I read it many years ago.

Perhaps we couldn't understand any amount of detail about the Divine Plan anyways. Maybe that has to await our higher-dimensional understanding.

In its most general outlines though, the Plan calls for created life forms to enter into and incarnate in worlds of greater density, which offers them situations designed to give birth to Self-Knowledge. The world that the Divine Mother created is a school of experience. Always what we're learning about is: Who am I, really?

The natural laws are a part of God's Plan. They're God's commandments setting down the way the exercise called "life" is designed to be played out. What we do unto others is done unto us again in turn. What we desire, we attract. What we fear, we also attract. Be equanimous and attract nothing ... but love.

Knowledge of these laws speeds us on our way. Just as when we discovered spirituality, our karma began to straighten out, so when we discover and observe the natural laws, our forward momentum is accelerated.

The Divine Mother, directly and through her laws, tends her children and raises them up before presenting them to the Father, so to speak. She raises them up by successive experiences of enlightenment. The Child of God is gradually brought to the knowledge of its true nature, ready to leave the Creator and the created realm and meet and re-unite with the Source.

We also have our own plan within the Mother's Plan. At the end of every lifetime we hold that plan in one hand, in a manner of speaking, and match it to the akashic film of what we did. In the past, our progress was often unencouraging. Now we're making rapid progress, again all according to Plan.

God's Plan has been depicted as angels descending and mounting a ladder of consciousness (Jacob's ladder).

"And [Jacob] dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

"And behold, the Lord stood above it." (4)

This same ladder of life, in its entirety, the Persian poet, Hafiz, called "the stairway of existence":

"Through the stairway of existence
"have you now come,
"have we all now come,
"to the Beloved's door." (5)

Jacob's ladder, the stairway to heaven - these both describe the process of spiritual evolution that the Plan supports. The Plan depicts a being rising through gradations of consciousness from unconscious awareness to conscious awareness and from self-consciousness to Self-Consciousness and beyond.

Now let's look at how this account - or perhaps the philosophy it leads to - is "integrated, direct and unitive."

Footnotes

(1) J. Krishnamurti, *At the Feet of the Master*. Adyar: Theosophical Publishing House, 1974; c1910, 17.

(2) See "Ch. 13. Epilogue" at <http://goldenageofgaia.com/spiritual-essays/16244-2/the-purpose-of-life-is-enlightenment/ch-13-epilogue/>

(3) Jesus in Matthew 16:28.

(4) Genesis 28:12-14.

(5) Hafiz cited at <http://hometown.aol.com/MassoudBeliever/Six.html>.

An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 5/7

Now that we've introduced the three leading characters in life's drama, I need to step back and address what it is about this account, and the philosophy it gives rise to, that makes it "integrated, direct and unitive."

As much fun as we may be having in probing the mysteries, this account is intended to perform work: to offer an account that spans the religions and receives from them their truths, while leaving the rest behind.

That by the way is something we're doing as individuals as well as religions. It's the order of the day.

Integrated

What we want to know is the truth below all accounts. I'm speaking now at the level of knowledge because we're producing knowledge here with the written word. I'm not talking about the ultimate truth perceived in spiritual practice. That truth cannot be conveyed in words or known by the mind.

Each of the accounts of the great masters was written for a particular era and, just as with mediums, had to draw on words in usage then, arranged in concepts that would make sense to that generation, and so on.

We're faced with taking these accounts and integrating them into one, using a new vocabulary known to this generation.

Usually anyone who tries to integrate many accounts wants to simplify the story. The adherents of any one faith can take that simplified version back into their own religions and apply it for understanding in the way they prefer to understand.

Buddhist meditation master S.N. Goenka used to say that he would make Christians better Christians. The truth below all accounts can only make the religious better members of their own religion. Or it isn't the truth.

So we're drawing together accounts and substituting a standard set of words for words that differ at the present time. We're doing this to increase understanding and tolerance.

Direct

Religions today and back through recorded history have given birth to bureaucracies that sometimes end up telling the faithful what they must believe, what they must do, etc.

Some bureaucracies have burned people at the stake for failing to follow the correct tenets. The faithful paid a heavy price in conformity.

All the time, a push went on to personalize religion, to demonstrate that no one needs an intermediary, an intercessionary, etc. Scriptures were translated into the vulgate language. They were disseminated by printing press.

Teachings arose that said that no one needed an intermediary between them and God. Westerners especially fell in love with Zen, which was a transmission outside the scriptures and aimed at direct experience of reality. This love affair was also part of not wishing to have a religious or spiritual intermediary.

Spirituality, as opposed to religion, has had its bureaucracies; witness Theosophy. But in the main, it allowed the practitioner complete freedom to choose path, object of devotion, and so on.

There's no need to have anyone between our heart and God's. No one needs to carry our message to the angels. All messages get through and are acted on in our best interests. We here at InLight Universal are now seeking to have a direct approach to God widely accepted and that's what I mean by using the term "direct."

Unitive

How much more unitive could things get than for us to realize that we're all divine sparks coated in materiality? And then we put on bodily shapes, colored one this way and one that, belonging to different countries, deriving wildly-differing views. And then we make each other bad and wrong for the differences.

We're saying that we need to see the divine spark in each of us and ignore the differences. Ignore them insofar as they create conflict, but not ignore them insofar as they're different-colored flowers in a very large garden.

Love and unitive consciousness are probably one and the same thing. The experience of love dissolves barriers - any kind of barriers. In the space that's left, it leaves only love and love unites rather than divides.

Unity and love must be synonymous. They feel synonymous. We're one people. We're tasked with the same mission - to realize ourselves as God. We inhabit the same world, that's rapidly becoming a very large house rather than an increasingly-shrinking planet. And taking care of each other is coming to be recognized for the common, divine mission it is.

We can only do what we intend to do - build Nova Earth, a world that works for everyone - in loving unity.

So this new spirituality is integrated, direct, and unitive. It intends to draw together teachings from Earth and elsewhere, now and the past, and explain them in an integrated fashion to assist people to a direct and knowing relationship with their Source and Creator.

Tomorrow we'll look at the event at the heart of the spiritual evolution that life invites: enlightenment.

An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 6/7



What many religions usually offer the faithful is a passage to Heaven, Valhalla, Paradise. They promise the winning of salvation, redemption, the reward of the just.

Usually the faithful will go to Heaven if they follow the ways of a particular religion. Implicit in that is that others who don't follow them won't go to Heaven, be with the elect, etc.

That is a caricature of the truth. What is the truth? What piece of that story is in any way accurate?

Well, we are on a spiritual journey so that part is accurate. It's a journey from God to God.

But it isn't just the followers of a certain religion that will complete the journey and realize God. Everyone will. Sri Ramakrishna taught that:

"All will surely realize God. All will be liberated. It may be that some get their meal in the morning, some at noon, and some in the evening; but none will go without food. All, without any exception, will certainly know the real Self." (1)

Krishnamurti agreed: "One day you will have all knowledge," he said. (2) And Mata Amritanandamayi concurs as well: "Whoever it may be, he who has sincere interest can know and see God." (3)

Thus there's no foundation in truth to the statement that only the true believers of one religion will attain heaven or be ushered into the presence of God, etc.

To us, all that's knowable and noticeable from our ground-level view is that we progress from one dimension of consciousness to another. This is the microcosmic view. The macrocosmic view is that we're returning to God, whence we came.

To be totally accurate, what the early Christian masters meant by "Heaven" was the Fifth Dimension that we're headed to. What others meant by Valhalla and Paradise is not as clear.

What's being vaguely and obliquely referred to is the experience we call "enlightenment." Enlightenment is what carries us from one dimension to another.

If we're to get to Heaven, Valhalla or Paradise, it'll be because we became enlightened. And enlightened to a certain stage because there are stages to enlightenment.

Enlightenment itself is virtually (that is, to all intents and purposes) endless. It goes on so far down the road that it's pointless to talk about its end. Can you imagine life just getting better and better to an unbelievable extent? And yet that's what awaits us.

I haven't been enlightened in this lifetime. It's implicit in what I know about myself that I have been in others (as have you). But that knowledge is not available to me at this time.

Therefore my intellectual understanding of enlightenment combined with perhaps two dozen spiritual experiences of a lesser nature than illumination is all I have to go on in defining enlightenment.

For me, enlightenment is a radical discontinuity in knowledge and experience that lifts a person, temporarily or permanently, to a higher plane of life. It may involve the seeing of a light or a cherished form of God. Or it may involve an event in consciousness such as a heart opening x 100.

When temporary, it leaves its traces like increased confidence, increased ability to love and experience bliss, certainty that one is immortal, etc.

Enlightenment, Krishna has said, is the reward of all action. (4) Very few desire it and, of the few who do, very few again have the discipline or perseverance to carry that wish through to the end. (5)

"Ascension" refers to a "movement" of sentient beings from one plane of consciousness to another. In Jesus's case, it was an individual phenomenon. In our case, it will be a mass or collective phenomenon.

Ascension is unto itself the attainment of a stage of enlightenment. But of what stage I have no certain knowledge. If we were in the Third Dimension, I'd say that sahaja samadhi catapults us from the Third to the Fifth. But the Mother has said sahaja comes deeper into the Fifth Dimension.

The paradox that situation creates is that, without sahaja, ordinarily we would need to be reborn into the Third. But I cannot conceive that we, being in the Fifth and not having had sahaja, would somehow return to the Third. So it's a gap in my knowledge as to exactly what stage of enlightenment triggers Ascension.

However, the celestials remind us that the journey goes on well past Ascension to the Fifth.

Archangel Michael says that he speaks to us from the Transcendental. Swami Vivekananda also came from the Transcendental and was an Elohim. So here we have the phenomenon of two exalted beings living in the domain of the Father and yet retaining their individuality and showing their up-to-the-moment knowledge of Earth's ways.

It does explain however how Archangel Michael could say that we can return to the Father and then emerge again when needed, much as Swami Vivekananda did in coming to Earth.

While I look forward to enlightenment, I also know that everything about me - my desire to serve, my love of writing, my relaxing into composition - has increased with a simple heart opening.

It allows me a kind of measuring device: if this experience I had was this sweet, can I imagine what Ascension must be like? I admit I cannot.

Footnotes

(1) Paramahansa Ramakrishna in Swami Nikhilananda, trans., *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*. New York: Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center, 1978; c1942, 818. [Hereafter GSR.]

(2) J. Krishnamurti, *At the Feet of the Master*. Adyar: Theosophical Publishing House, 1974; c1910, 27.

(3) Mata Amritanandamayi, *Awaken, Children!* Vallicakavu, India: Mata Amritanandamayi Mission Trust, I, 49.

(4) "The reward of all action is to found in enlightenment." (Sri Krishna in Swami Prabhavananda and Christopher Isherwood, trans., *Bhagavad-Gita. The Song of God*. New York and Scarborough: New American Library, 1972; c1944, 54. [Hereafter BG.]

"The glory of the Lord shall be thy reward." (Isaiah 58:8.)

"By contacting God in the world and in meditation you will find all your heart's desires fulfilled. Then you will be a true man of renunciation, for you will find that nothing is more worth-while, more pleasant or attractive than the all-beautiful, all-satisfying, all-thirst quenching, ever-new, joyous God." (Paramahansa Yogananda, *The Second Coming of Christ*. Three vols. Dallas: Amrita Foundation, 1979-86, 1, 17.)

(5) "Who cares to seek For that perfect freedom? One man, perhaps, In many thousands." (Sri Krishna in BG, 70.)

"Only one in a million sincerely longs for God, and few sustain that longing." (Swami Brahmananda in Swami Prabhavananda, *The Eternal Companion. Brahmananda*. Hollywood: Vedanta Press, 1970; c1944, 194.)

"Then tell me how many
Of those who seek freedom
Shall know the total Truth of my being?
Perhaps one only." (Sri Krishna in BG, 70.)

"The Divine Mother ... gives freedom to one out of a hundred thousand." (Paramahansa Ramakrishna in GSR, 136.)

An Integrated, Direct and Unitive Spirituality - Part 7/7



What have we done here? We at the Golden Age of Gaia and InLight Universal have called for an integrated, direct and unitive spirituality. We've made the case for it in brief.

We've looked at the fact that life has been designed. We looked at the Plan for fulfilling that design.

We haven't looked at the natural laws that assist in the achievement of life's purpose or at many of the supporting characters in the leela or divine play that life is. There's so much to look at that I can't imagine how many articles it would take.

We looked at the purpose behind the design - the purpose for us (enlightenment) and for God (for God to "meet" God in a moment of our enlightenment).

We looked at how an acceptance of the fact that enlightenment was the purpose of life and that it resulted in all good things leads to an acceptance

of everything else spiritual. It provides the rationale for spirituality. It points to the outcome.

We looked at the three main characters in the drama of life - Source, Creator, and Created - or Father, Mother, and Child (or Self).

We must realize the three in successive stages of enlightenment to fulfill this part of the Plan. There are many more stages of enlightenment past knowledge of the Trinity but this is our starting point.

We looked at what it meant to say that we want and are at work on an "integrated, direct, and unitive spirituality." We're taking what we can identify as the truest teachings of all religions and integrating them, to produce a spirituality that requires no intermediary, and results in the kind of love, peace, and wisdom that sees and embraces all beings as One.

And finally we looked at the phenomenon known as "enlightenment," a radical discontinuity in knowledge and experience that lifts a person, temporarily or permanently, to a higher plane of life.

Rather than a picture, we've reproduced a puzzle actually. This is a 5D puzzle because the pieces not only need to be rightly arranged but each piece then needs to be gone into deeper and deeper.

It's a story I never tire of writing about.

Thank you for hearing our call for an integrated, direct, and unitive spirituality. May we realize that goal in the near future.