

## INNER JESUS Part 1

I wanted to get a better “feel” for this whole idea of a relationship with Jesus, and I was drawn to some deep similarities between a devotee’s relationship to a guru (even one who has passed on) and how we might describe this new found relationship with Jesus. Here is the beginning of this exploration.

The following are excerpts (direct quotes and paraphrase) from the book Be Love Now, by Ram Dass. \* The italic sections are some of my own comments. Because I have attempted to put some of his ideas into a form more understandable to our Western tradition, there are time when I have substituted the name Jesus for the term “guru” and for Ram Dass’ guru, Neem Karoli Baba. I found these passages fascinating when viewed in conjunction with our study of Jesus in NTI. They serve as not only a description, but can put us in touch with the experience of what it is like to live in continual awareness and dialogue with Jesus within. None of this is as dramatic as CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD OR JC. It is simple awareness of the Presence and guidance of Spirit all the time.

When I begin to think about having a relationship with Jesus, I am continually drawn back to the image of a man who lived two thousand years ago. I know in my mind that this is not the Jesus we are talking about, but I still get tripped up by that old image. I know we are speaking of Jesus as the Christ, as the One who worked through all this stuff of illusion and who is now “One with the Father,” but my problem is how do I have a relationship with this being. It’s not the human Jesus, but what is it? See, even this part is impossible for the mind to grasp (and, of course that is what my mind wants to do--grasp it, explain it, put it in a box).

*NTI Romans 9 (1-18) 12 You try to understand and you try to give reason to your experience because you want to reconcile your world with truth. You want all you believe to be the truth, and you want the truth to be true too. This reconciliation can never be accomplished. That which is not true cannot become true, and that which is true cannot fit within illusion.*

*Putting the mind and logical explanations aside for a moment, I found myself moved by Ram Dass’ description of his relationship with his guru (although the guru does not have a body any more). I felt that his description also beautifully describes the experience of an inner relationship with Jesus. So I am putting these ideas together for my own growth and hope they might help you as well. All this is an exercise for me in “teaching what I want to learn.”*

*In Hindu tradition, the spiritual path of following a guru is called the path of Devotion. A guru is more than a teacher. The expression is “The teacher shows the way; the guru is the way.” Jesus expressed that reality, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” The guru is not only the way-shower; the guru is also the Beloved. Since the guru is the embodiment of Love, he/she is both the Lover and the Object of Love.*

\*If you are not familiar with him, you might want to Google or ask me and I will fill you in. He’s a fascinating character.



whole process. You just get more joyful. Falling in love is a desire to merge with, to be completely immersed in love for, and be loved by the beloved. You want to know your beloved more and more intimately. That yearning has motivated human beings to give up everything, to renounce all forms of gratification, even life itself. To love God or Jesus is to let go of everything that separates you from the Beloved.

*It is still easy to get back into separateness thinking that somehow God, Jesus, is out there somewhere helping this poor simpleton, named Gerry to find his way home.*

*It is essential to realize that loving God/Jesus Who are One is the same as loving Self.*

*Keep in mind here, also, that we are really speaking about getting in touch with your Self. You are the guru, and the guru is you.*

*Romans 6(5-7) 2-6 "You are Jesus and Jesus is you. There is no separation between him and you. You know this, if you close your eyes (if you allow yourself to be free from illusion). For when you close your eyes, you can find him there. He is part of you, within you, a being within your soul."*

*Again, it is important to know that Jesus/the consciousness of the Christ/Oneness is not something that decided to take up residence inside of us (Can't you just feel the separateness?). Jesus is a symbol, a symbol of our true nature, and our true nature is Divine, One with the Father.*

There is a class of saints who have finished their spiritual work in every sense, who are fully realized. There is no identification with a personal self. Everything they do in form is empty of personal need. The fullness of the One permeates their every moment. When in the role of a guide such a being is a true guru who beckons from the destination farther up the mountain. The living presence of such gurus, the example of their being, shines like a light on the path. They are a statement of the spiritually possible. Their unconditional love is the color of the One. They are pure mirrors on which there is no dust.

*The additional dimension NTI would add to this is the Holy Spirit saying, "Jesus is a part of you, so that all that he accomplished, he accomplished within you. And that which is accomplished within you is accomplished by you." p. 268 Romans 6(v5-7) 7-8*

*We are only speaking of Jesus as a separate being only as long as we have to speak that way. It is only necessary because as yet we cannot see.*

*Romans 6(8-14) 8-10 Focus your eyes on Jesus and know the love in your own Heart. This is your truth. This is your hearts desire. In surrendering into this truth, you find your joy.*

Perfectured beings rest in emptiness, in presence, in non-conceptual, non-differentiated awareness of every moment. Out of them comes the optimum response to any life situation. They may not think about saying it or doing it, or even know they have. It's not on that level. There's no ego.

*NTI Mark 14(v32-42) 17 "From this point forward there would be no more Jesus, but only the will of the Holy Spirit."*

*Jesus then became a symbol of salvation. We are not attached to the symbol; it is a tool to be used (or one that uses us) to reach its goal. The Realization of Oneness.*

A being such as Jesus is liberated in the sense of being free from all forms. At that point there is a kind of choiceless choice, a bounding condition that Buddhists call the bodhisattva vow, a voluntary postponement of ultimate merging to stay in form and continue to reincarnate to relieve the suffering of all beings, the ultimate act of compassion. From where we stand, the bodhisattva vow sounds like a heavy load, but it's actually light, because there's no self to take seriously.

The only thing a man must renounce if he wishes to attain the Supreme Truth is the notion of individuality. Nothing else. —Swami Ram Dass

In Jesus, we have such a one.

*In Buddhist imagery Jesus is “waiting at the door and holding it open” until everyone gets through.*

*“My part in the Atonement is not complete until you join it and give it away. I will never leave you or forsake you for to forsake you would be to forsake myself and God who created me.”  
ACIM Chap. 5 Healing and Wholeness Section VI Therapy and Teaching 55 (Original Edition Text)*

You have to be in your soul to get to Jesus.

*Romans 6(15-18) 8-12 “When you look at your brother Jesus, you are not looking outside your mind. You are not seeing the past or looking into the future. When you look at your brother Jesus and you recognize what you want, you are looking into your mind and seeing him now and seeing him. You are looking in your heart now and recognizing him. You are looking within you now, and you are finding him there, fully accomplished, all that he is, living within your mind.”*

Your attachment to how Jesus will show himself to you or guide you is just your projection. Instead of judging and pushing and pulling, allow yourself to be here without clinging. You will let go of concepts and attachments sooner or later, and nobody's in any rush except you, because Jesus is not in time. You're the only one who's in time, and suffering. You have to let go of your self-pity, feelings of unworthiness, feelings of inadequacy, and the desires that increase your separateness and push the universe away.

*You might have heard me saying last Sunday that as I was reading some of this from Ram Dass that I was envious of his relationship with his guru, that I wanted that kind of intimate relationship with Jesus.*

*I meditated that afternoon and said in my prayer, “I want to have a close intimate relationship with you, Jesus. How come you are not as close as I think you should be? How come you are not*

*like Ram Dass' guru?" Of course, I knew there was some necessary work on my part, but I really was not sure what that was supposed to be.*

*I thought I was willing enough.*

*It was one of those prayers that had an immediate answer.*

*Jesus: I am always here with you.*

*Gerry: Well, how come I don't seem to know you are there most of the time?*

*Jesus: You have to be aware/conscious of My Presence for me to be able to speak with you.*

*Well that shut me up. I became very conscious that I was not doing my part.*

*My part, even in the simplest of ways, is being aware, willingness, letting myself be loved, and asking for help (instead of trying to figure it out all by myself).*

You don't have to demand or cajole. You don't have to ask for anything from Jesus. Don't try to tell Jesus what to do; just let him in. As your attachments arise, offer them into the fire of His love. The outer world becomes the inner journey. If you know what you're looking for, the messages are all around. If a situation seems full of cosmic irony, that's probably Jesus. If your life seems to be running on crazy coincidences and synchronicity, that's Jesus too. The guru's a rascal, always playing with you, always showing you where you're not. Your work is to practice contentment and surrender.

That's how you allow Jesus to work on you. Even when bad times or painful things come up, let yourself be with them as fierce grace. It's just Jesus helping you to see your attachments and what you perceive as suffering from the vantage point of the soul. You surrender to the deeper will. Not my, but Thy Will. You begin to see your life and your work on yourself as a dialog with Jesus. There is less and less difference between you and Jesus, between lover and Beloved. More and more it's just being in Love. Jesus and your inner Self are one.

Guru literally means "remover of darkness," one who can enlighten you. We usually take it to mean a guide or teacher, and certainly the term has infiltrated pop culture, for example, fashion gurus or sex gurus. A real guru is different from a teacher. If you think of the spiritual path as the road home to your true Self, a teacher is someone standing next to you, pointing and giving directions, while the guru is up the road ahead, beckoning to you from your destination. He or she is someone who has already made the journey and knows the lay of the land. In fact, the guru knows it's all One, that the journey is an illusion and that it's all right here, and your being is just another face of the One. The guru's job is to get you to know that too. The guru may be called by many names.

Jesus is the model. Jesus has been there, done that. He or she is there. This friend and you are going on a journey within, which is your spiritual life, and your friend just happens to have total compassion, wisdom, peace, love, and joy. It's completely intimate. Your friend may seem to be coming from outside, yet he or she manifests inside. I could see that my guru had this power, this peace, wisdom, and love, but it was hard for me to see them in myself. My neurotic ego didn't allow me to think so positively about myself. But once I began to see myself through the guru's eyes, with his grace the weight of all those negative habits of thought began to drop away,

enough to allow me to go on with the journey. That's a little of what the guru does. Who he is, is bliss, presence, love, compassion.

*NTI Galatians 3 (v6-9) 1-3 Let me tell you what I see when I look at you. I see faith and willingness and love. I see a heart so strong, not even the heavens of your universe can contain it. I see a mind that is awakening to its own Heart. I see gentleness through awakening, and I am grateful to have come to welcome you back unto your truth. (I believe Galatians is one of the epistles that is spoken through the voice of Jesus.)*