



Flawless Awareness Introduction to Awareness 2

The ordinary experience of life is to be lost in a blur of thoughts, emotions, sensations and other experiences, and to not even know that there's any lost-ness in that, or to simply be up and down all the time—always reaching some point of feeling happy or good, and then believing that that's going to last forever, then always having the hopes dashed. And so, when we believe that our happiness is dependent on thoughts, emotions, sensations or other experiences, then our whole life is one of a blur of ups and downs—always looking for some kind of antidote, countermeasure or curative fantasy that's going to somehow end the cycle of never feeling complete.

If we look around in our own life, in our very own experience, we can see that the different things that we have sought—money, power, prestige, relationship with certain people, places and things—that if we really look at our own experience, we see that the attainment of any of these has never led to happiness. No matter what we attain, whether it's the perfect job, the perfect car, the perfect partner, the perfect food, the perfect vacation, the perfect place to live, the perfect government under which to live, no matter what it is, if we look at our own experience, we see that this has not ensured our happiness.

This constant striving for perfection, whether it's within ourselves or within the external, is just a game. It's a game of ups and downs, a game of confusion, a game of never feeling complete.

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When we rely on what we're thinking or what our emotional states are or our sensations or other experiences, then we haven't really stopped to examine what the source or root of these are. We believe that these are powerful entities in their own right, that somehow our thoughts, emotions, sensations and other experiences have some kind of very solid, very real existence, and that our well-being is dependent on their very real, solid existence.

This misperception is due to not understanding the source, to not realizing that all of these perceptions appear within a crystalline space of flawless awareness. By gently relying on awareness rather than emphasizing the points of view that appear within awareness, then awareness becomes more and more obvious. Its flawlessness becomes more and more obvious.

All perceptions whatsoever, all points of view, appear within the all-encompassing view of crystal clear awareness. Just like in this crystal ball, there are all kinds of images that appear, and they seem to be always changing. The flawlessness of the crystal ball never changes, and the appearances are inseparable from the purity of the crystal ball.

Such is the case with our own awareness. It's a source of indestructible stability, indestructible mental and emotional stability. To look for mental and emotional stability or any kind of reality that is very solid and very real within the images appearing in a crystal ball would be foolhardy. We'd never look for indestructibility by trying to grab onto any of these images.

Awareness and perceptions, or points of view, is similar to the appearances within a crystal. These appearances are such that, whatever the crystal ball is placed on, it will instantaneously reflect whatever that is. Now it's on orange paper, and it's reflecting the orange-ness of the paper from my angle of vision. It looks like the orange-ness is really in the crystal ball; however, the flawlessness of the crystal never changes. And so too, with our own awareness and all of its countless, ceaseless, unpredictable appearances, all of these appear like the images in a crystal ball, like a dream image or a mirage—without any solidity, without any reality basis in their own right.

To rely on awareness for short moments, repeated many times until it becomes automatic, is to introduce ourselves to our real nature, to train in our flawless, stainless nature. When we train in our flawless, stainless nature rather than training in the solidity and reality of momentary thoughts, emotions, sensations and other experiences, then we begin to experience our own flawlessness, our own stainlessness, the indestructibility of our very own awareness.

To just relax for a single moment is to experience awareness, and this is similar to exerting oneself, for example, working in the garden or going out on a very brisk walk. If we've worked in the garden all day or gone out on a very brisk walk for an hour or two, or a hike, when we come back, we just sit down and we completely relax. The gardening is over, the hike or the walk are over. We just completely relax. This is what it is to relax awareness in its flawless crystal state.

Awareness is present in all appearances. Just like the crystal ball reflects everything that momentarily appears within it, no matter what the appearance is, it's forever crystalline and unchanging. It can never be changed in any way whatsoever. So, by relying on temporary appearances, we start to believe that these temporary appearances somehow are going to congeal into well-being and perfection; however, they never do. After a very short time of this foolhardy pursuit, it should be clear to us that this is the case.

When we allow experiences to be our ruler, to be our boss, then we're always avoiding what's appearing or we're indulging it, or we're trying to replace what's appearing with something else. However, when we rely on awareness rather than emphasizing all of these perceptions, then we become familiar with our crystal clear awareness. We become familiar with what's at the basis. We stop training ourselves in the endless pursuit of the perfect experience. Instead we rely on the 'un-experienceable'.

When we rely on awareness, awareness relies on itself. And so, there's no entity or experience to get out of the way, as awareness is the root of all experience. There's no experience to get out of the way; there's no experience to avoid, no experience to indulge and no experience to replace in order to have well-being.

If we feel that we need to micro-manage all of the experiences, then experiences become our enemy. Whether they're good experiences or bad experiences, they become our enemy, because we're constantly wanting more good experiences and wanting fewer bad experiences. By the power of ever-present awareness, the whole jig is up. The game is over. Whatever appears, appears. Whatever happens, happens. Whatever appears, appears in crystal clarity. Whatever happens, happens in crystal clarity. Everything is self-illuminated in its own right.

Awareness and clarity are inseparable. Awareness and luminous clarity are inseparable. This becomes more and more obvious in our own experience. There is no separation whatsoever between awareness and crystal clarity, just like there's no separation between the crystal and its luminosity. It's impossible to separate the crystal ball from its luminous clarity. Just so, it's impossible to separate awareness from clarity.

Wisdom is to know that phenomena-appearances are not very solid, they're not very real. They're like a dream, an echo, a mirage, an appearance in a crystal ball. They have no solidity. They have no reality basis in their own right. We could search forever, and we could never find a phenomenon that existed in its own right. What does that say about *us* then?

Wisdom is to know that awareness is the basis. The coupling of the wisdom of knowing that phenomena do not have an independent nature with the means of short moments of awareness, repeated many times, is the pith instruction. Nothing else is required. All complication and verbosity is gone beyond. The fickle pursuit of points of view comes to a complete stop in luminous clarity that incisively sees through all, that outshines all appearances.