

# Returning to the Inner Tree of Life

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It doesn't matter whether or not God judges us. We should be correcting our behavior simply because it is the right thing to do.

We shouldn't need God or religion to tell us the difference between right and wrong. Deep down within every human heart there resides innate knowledge that knows the difference between right and wrong.

Our greatest human problem is that we never bother to dig deep enough into our own selves to discover what actually lies within. We are essentially lazy.

We do not like to tax our brains by thinking too hard, anymore than we like to tax our bodies by having to work too hard. We all like to take it easy.

The problem with taking it easy is that easiness tends to be the hardest of all paths. What is easy in the short run ends up being most hard in the long run. But who is paying attention? Who cares enough to make a difference?

It is nice to contemplate a return to God when one really does not know what that actually means. Returning to God does not mean becoming more ritually religious. Indeed, sometimes becoming more religious takes one even further away from God. One often uses one's religion as an excuse to justify all kinds of inappropriate human behavior.

Returning to God has nothing to do with ritual religion. Returning to God means becoming more like God. And to be more like God, one must become more righteous, more decent, more giving, and above all, more humble.

Becoming like God does not make one to be God. Becoming like God makes one to become more human.

We do not need God to judge us. Our own failures, our own selfishness, and our own evils judges us harshly enough, without God ever needing to get involved.

If we have trouble in our lives, rest assured, we are the ones who have caused it. If we have trouble in our country, rest assured, we are the ones who have caused it. If we have trouble around the world, rest assured, we are the ones who have caused it.

Now, the fact that we have caused so many problems and hardships actually has a silver lining. If we can mess things up, then we can equally fix things back up again. If we can break, then we can build.

God has already given us all the blessings that we need. All we have to do is use what we already have.

Life does not have to be hell. We can calm hell's fires and begin to turn our personal hells into little slices of Heaven. But it all starts with us, with each and every individual.

When we become more like God, thus becoming more human, then like God we can create personal gardens of eden, and like Adam the first man, we can till the garden and take care for it. All we have to do is to be mindful not to eat the forbidden fruit of the Tree of Knowledge, good and evil.

One who places both God, and their humanity, in their hearts has no fear of following external knowledge that grows on a tree. One who is with God discovers that God is present, providing inner knowledge, inner wisdom and inner understanding. This is all that one needs.

It is the inner knowledge, wisdom and understanding that is the fruit of the Tree of Life. If only we were to partake of this fruit we would indeed live forever.

The outside Tree looks so tempting. So, close your eyes and instead of looking out, look within. Do not look at what you do not have. Rather, look at what you do have.

Partake of the inner fruit. Transform yourself from within. Discover the Presence of God already within you.

God is not "out there" somewhere. You do not have to go looking for God. God has already found you. Close your eyes, look within, and you will see God gazing back at you.

God's gaze is a devouring fire. The fire of God Presence will burn away all personal pretense and self deceptions. What will be left will be the real you. The real you will then be able to draw close to God's fire for warmth and light, without getting burned.

So, we do not need holiday periods to focus on repentance. Repentance is to return, and to return is something we must be doing, always.

The inner path is never-ending. So too, the inner light grows ever brighter. Start by seeing it now. Taste the inner fruit of the Tree of Life, and within you, you will see and know. There is no greater knowledge than this! And when you know, you will know many, many things.

Let the inner light judge us and cleanse us. Let the inner light shine into our hearts and then into our minds.

We know the difference between good and evil. All we must do is to admit it, and make the efforts to live by that which we already know.

Rise up and work, at least just a little.