

Samsøe Island, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

## **Questions and Answers about delusions in the Oneness Movement, the Guru Effect, the 2012 story and more.**

Some weeks ago we wrote two letters ago about our perspectives on the development in the Oneness Movement.

- [An invitation to look again \(Cecil\)](#)
- [An invitation to get real \(Bruhn\)](#)

They described what we perceive as delusions in the movement. We also see lots of beautiful teachings and people in the movement but that was not the focus of the letters. If you have not received them and you feel like reading them you can click on the links above.

These letters are not just pointing at the delusions in the Oneness Movement but would also apply to several other of the world's spiritual communities. And perhaps most of all to the ego based spiritual belief structures in the collective mind flowing through all of us.

Since sending out the letters we have received more than 50 feedback mails from deeksha givers. 3 were neutral, 4 were negative and the rest were positive. The negative ones generally write that we are creating unwanted and unnecessary critique of the movement. The neutral ones are contributing with other perspectives. And the positive ones describe how relieved they are to experience resonance with the content of the letters and to find out that they are not alone in their concerns about the movement.

No matter what the numbers or the perspectives are it is important for us to create reflection and dialogue. We can all benefit from a more whole and nuanced picture of what is going on. Then it is up to each one of us to find our own truth.

“Oneness” is not “Sameness”. We do not have to have the same opinion to be one. Oneness is beyond all views, thoughts and feelings. And simultaneously it contains all views, thoughts and feelings.

In the responses we received very relevant questions from many people. Some of them we have answered individually and some of them we have put together here in this document. So remember –the following answers are just our perspectives – you have to find your own stand.

### **Question 1: When Bhagavan promises enlightenment, is it not because of cultural differences in the way we communicate in India and the west?**

We absolutely agree that there are vast cultural differences between western countries and India. (That is also why it is so awesome to travel in India©). And yes, it is very important to take this into consideration. We have used the cultural differences argument for several years when we explained to participants in our courses why this kind of communication came out of Oneness University.

But if we look at how some of the greatest masters from India - like the Buddha, Ramana Maharshi, Sri Nisargadatta Maharaj and more - have handled this, they never promised or spoke about giving enlightenment. On the contrary they pointed towards self inquiry and surrendering to Presence. So we are not talking about a cultural trait or it being a cultural necessity to communicate in this way. For us it looks more like a confidence trick. Especially when we look at the very low success rate combined with the huge sums of money charged.

We have had people writing to us that Bhagavan only wants to point at the possibility of enlightenment – so his words should be interpreted in another way. Then our question is – why does Bhagavan not communicate this clearly instead of making false promises?

There is a potential for enlightenment in every single Now – stop looking outside yourself and dive into this inner pool of endless possibilities.

**Question 2 – Is any of that hurting anyone? Is there undue pain and suffering caused by any of these exaggerations and false promises?**

Good question and perhaps the most important of all.

From the absolute perspective everything has been and is perfect (also the delusions) as these happenings are all a part of humanity's learning expedition.

But from a perspective of wholesome practice and spiritual guidance we would not recommend making false promises and predictions and to play God and Goddess - and on top of that charge such large amounts of money for “giving” something that is not theirs to give.

We witnessed several negative consequences of this. In 2004 and 2005 we met Indians who had been told by the movement to borrow all the money they could to attend the processes. They also created commission structures so that the more paying participants the Indians gathered for the introductory courses the higher level of deeksha they would receive themselves.

The Oneness Movement also invented a consciousness scale and told people how close they were to the next level of consciousness which then only the next special deeksha could bring them to. This strategy was used mainly with the Indian followers so many western participants have not heard about it. How smart is that for a money machine? And how delusional is it?

We met several families being indebted and destroyed through this. Of course everyone is responsible for their own choices. But the question is if this is a respectful and sustainable approach to spiritual work – in India as well as the west?

We also know that some people have come out with great gifts from the processes. The question is if we can keep the good stuff and let the harmful things go?

Another example is that Bhagavan in some of his communication states that he has given the power to awaken people to Trainers/deekshagivers. This has several unwholesome consequences:

– receivers think it is Bhagavan/deekshagivers who give enlightenment (big misunderstanding)

- people are sustained in the belief that they should be looking outside themselves for salvation

- it fuels the spiritual egos of the trainers/deekshagivers which will make it harder for themselves (and the people they work with) to break through

It is in a very subtle way Amma and Bhagavan are manipulating the truth. They are using universal truths combined with megalomaniac exaggerations. The truths create enough credibility to allow the exaggerated promises to be accepted in the minds of the followers.

In one moment Bhagavan says that he is not God (being humble ☺) and in the next moment he says that you should just pray to Amma and Bhagavan and you will have all your material and spiritual aspirations fulfilled.

In one moment they say that the deeksha is a universal energy available for everyone and in the next moment they claim to be the ones turning it up and down – and giving it to us.

In one moment they say that enlightenment should be free of cost and in the next they charge huge amounts of money for courses and private darshans.

In one moment Bhagavan says that the movement has to fade away from the scene – and in the next moment he takes the center stage himself and talks about expansion of the movement. One moment all structures have to fade and the next moment new hierarchies are installed.

When you make humble statements and universal truths clear the way for exaggerated promises people will still believe in you.

When you combine deep truths with attractive lies you can gather a big following – and have the circus running for years. But it will fall down eventually like a house of cards because only absolute truth and unconditional love are beyond the dynamics of change.

We mention these examples to show that Oneness Movement is like this too. Not to say that everything in Oneness is bad.

**Question 3: A deluded consciousness is a consciousness in the clutches of the mind. Are you assuming that Bhagavan is delusional?**

First of all we are not here to judge anyone. Our purpose is to point at unwholesome actions and communication - not to evaluate people. (Quite easy because in reality the people are actually not there – only the happenings are ☺).

We have experienced many wonderful teachings, processes and happenings in Oneness University. But we also see that some of the behavior is fostering illusions in people.

If we see how many of the claims that has put been forward the last 7 years from Oneness University that has come true (see An Invitation to get real) we see good reason to call parts of the communication delusional.

How does this happen and why is it accepted? The guru phenomenon in spiritual movements (like the popstar phenomenon in the mundane world) is all about creating a focal point for many people's energy. When a lot of people direct their attention/energy towards a phenomenon (a guru or a teacher) then this guru's "energy bank account" grows (and often the real bank account too). This is a phenomenon in the collective mind.

We all know that the power of the mind is great, so the more people are "logged in" the more power the energy field gets. In this energy field you can sometimes have peak experiences because so much energy is available. The problem is that this is mostly mind made and as we all know – the mind cannot free the mind – only a broad band connection to Presence can. Cecil said a wonderful thing the other morning: "Nobody can give you your power, but you can give your power away". Don't do that.

We experience that the deeksha energy in the Oneness Movement to a high degree is collectively mind made by all the people involved. This is for example experienced when the deeksha-field is "pumped up" in some workshops. This mind made energy is often mistaken for Presence – but the difference is substantial and important. Presence will not give you peak – and accompanying pit experiences in the same way the mind made energy fields do. There is not the same hang over the day after ☺. The mind made energy in some deeksha fields is a poor substitute for the deeper heart based Presence we can experience in more clean energy fields.

Presence does not thrive very well with manipulation from the Mind. When there is manipulation, Presence disappears. We are experiencing a lot of veils around Oneness – just like the mundane world is full of veils surrounding pop stars, "vote-out" TV programs and much more.

In 2006 I (Bruhn) stayed 25 days in Ananda Loka 3 in Oneness University. I spoke quite a lot with the dasa responsible for public communications. He said – and I quote – "There are three important words in our work – we want to attract people with Money, Fame and Power".

At first I thought he was joking but soon discovered that those were orders from the Management of Oneness University. I was amazed to see how much he believed in it and I found it rather sad to see how little it seemed that Oneness University was interested in attracting genuine, authentic seekers – unless they paid a lot of money to be there. I saw direct examples of how the dasas were bending over backwards for self-important pop stars (perhaps well known

in Sweden) and how they completely ignored genuine (not famous) people who offered to help create better (healthier) conditions for the cooking on the courses there for example.

#### **Question 4: But don't you believe in miracles and prayer anymore?**

Our statements do not mean that we deny the miracles in this world. On the contrary we now experience Life as one endless miracle.

The veils of Illusion only arise when someone takes credit for the miracles and manipulates truth. When someone claims to be the one doing the miracles (instead of passing on "the credits" to God/Life/Universe) you should really be careful.

The false gurus place themselves in front of the sun (the source) and they are illuminated by the light of their followers. They (perhaps unconsciously) block the sun but no one discovers it because the light (energy) that shines from the disciples illuminates the guru. The followers mistake their own collective light to be the source and fail to realize the manipulations of the false guru.

We see this phenomenon with Sai Baba for example, who do very simple magicians tricks "materializing ashes" (hidden pellets crushed between the fingers), "gulping up golden eggs" (hidden in the towel). Even though he performs them very poorly his followers believes they are true because of the filters/perceptions they have of him as God on earth. It is mass delusion – a phenomenon in the collective mind – orchestrated by people who want power, money and fame.

Several have mentioned The Emperor's New Clothes in their emails to us. How liberating it is for all when the child says: "But he isn't wearing anything at all!"

The same guru phenomenon is happening in the Oneness Movement - but in more subtle ways. Bhagavan balances the I-am-special-statements: "I give it to you" with humble universal truths: "It is Grace doing it", thereby giving credibility to the lie. It is such a fine line between delusion and truth.

This does not mean that we should not consult spiritual teachers. On the contrary it is one of the most powerful catalysts on your spiritual path. Some people need one kind of teachings and others need another kind of teachings. But common to the non manipulating teachers is that they are pointing to the power and presence inside of your Self.

True spiritual teachers guide you to see the sun and not themselves. Furthermore their higher vibration creates a resonance phenomenon in which you are able to be in direct contact with your own higher self. That is the value of being in the Presence of an enlightened being (who is not really there - and therefore truly there ☺).

We are all here to realize that we are not here in the form we think we are - but as a manifestation of the One. One with Nature, one with the Universe, one with God. Enlightenment is when we deeply realize and become the universal aspect of ourselves. The individual aspect of ourselves we can still see and be aware of but we are no longer identified with this aspect.

When we say that there are delusions manifesting around Bhagavan, Sai Baba, the Pope etc it is because the individual aspect of these people (their personas) are mistaken for their universal aspect (God) – by themselves and their followers.

No true masters have lost their humility to God or the Source (whatever you prefer to call the loving intelligence behind this universe). The delusion of the spiritual ego is when the individual aspect of our Self (the little self which is not really there) claims the powers of our universal aspect (the Higher Self which is the real deal).

- Be aware when teachers or gurus:
- Promise you specific results
- Display magic powers (some of them real/some of them poor magic tricks)
- Recommend sexual intimacy with the teacher as part of initiations or rituals
- Have created hierarchies – organizational or spiritual
- Are charging big money for initiations or courses

When we say “be aware” we do not say “be afraid”. We invite you to consult your intuition as well as your common sense and then make a skillful choice about what teachers to consult.

**Question 5: What about the 100th monkey theory – the theory about critical mass - is all this a lie?**

There are many views upon this theory about the potato washing monkeys on the Japanese Island of Koshima. The scientific data has been interpreted in various ways and made into a good story about a breakthrough point (around 100 monkeys THEN IT HAPPENED!!), which resulted in some monkeys on a nearby island adapting the same behavior. People investigating the data more thoroughly say there is no proof of any numbers creating a sudden breakthrough. It is a fact that the behavior spread on Koshima and also started to occur sporadically on other islands – so yes it is an example of the interconnectedness of the collective mind. But to derive any solid conclusions about critical mass and make this a valid truth regarding mass enlightenment is perhaps to take it a little too far ☺.

We totally accept and experience the fact that we are connected – also through the collective mind. Experiments show that there are mass-phenomena happening in the collective mind. The more people who are tuned in on a mathematical problem the faster it gets solved. When sick people are prayed for they have a statistically higher recovery rate. This is not something new and mysterious – it is simply how for example cultures are made, grow and die – and why we sometimes know who is on the phone before we answer it.

But Enlightenment is not about solving problems or creating effects in the collective mind or the physical world. It is about transcending the mind. So we cannot say that 64000 enlightened beings will create a shift in consciousness. It is just a story. “7000 trainers guiding 100 deeksha givers” is also just a story. You can choose to believe or not – but it is still a story.

There is nothing wrong with these stories as such. But when they take the focus away from self inquiry and finding our inner power they are not wholesome. Pure Presence is the fading away of all stories and the opening up to the miraculous now. Connect with this power instead of being disempowered by fairytales which are actually aiming at building organizational or spiritual power structures.

We have heard people say. “Bhagavan has laid out the plan for global enlightenment”. Do you know the saying: “ If you want to hear God laugh, tell him your plans.” We can make plans for our shopping, that is fine. We can make targets and action plans for companies. That can prove to be effective. But to make plans for global enlightenment is the biggest cosmic joke ever.

**Question 6: So what about 2012 and all the time we have wasted according to Bhagavan. Should we not hurry and gather as many deeksha givers as possible? And do as much deeksha and spiritual practice as possible before the window of opportunity closes?**

Have you read the children’s book Momo and the Time Thieves by Michael Ende? If you haven’t please go down to the book store and get it. It is so beautiful and very relevant right now.

Momo, the main character, represents the childish innocence in us – which is also pure Presence. In the beginning her friends are also connected with Presence in whatever action they do – sweeping the streets etc.

The time thieves are grey men in suits coming to their society spreading their messages of how to save time by doing activities faster and putting the saved time in their time bank. They represent the ego based mind always creating a sense of lack by projecting people into the future or the past. People become more and more controlled by the time thieves and their subtle manipulations. Momo sees all her friends being manipulated and she sets off on her quest to bring them back to Presence.

In our world there are many forms of time thieves wanting to keep people in the clutches of the mind in order to create advantages for themselves. Some of them are actually disguised as people working for Presence.

There are the 2012 believers passively being caught in these false beliefs. And there are the 2012 time terrorists, spiritual people who consciously or unconsciously use the 2012 predictions to put themselves into a power position as a prophet or and oracle. They use time as a tool for creating attention around their messages and to build organizations

(like the Mormons and other dooms day movements, enlightenment movements like TM and Oneness Movement and more). Messages like “The window of opportunity will close”. “The end is near”. “We will self destruct”. “Believe in me, this will save us”. “The big shift is coming in the end of 2011”, “There is a tipping point coming up in 2010”, “Start to do this”.

It is very much a power game based in the time focused mind – and it will not liberate us from the mind. Only Presence can do that.

We often hear the argument: “But so many spiritual traditions point towards 2012 so there must be something to it “. Could it be that they are just wired up to the same part of the pseudo spiritual collective mind?

The only true thing we can say is: “I am right here right now”. “I am experiencing this... right now” All else is something that is not here. How can we even talk about predictions as being true or false. They are by definition - and more importantly by experience - delusion. Because they are not right here right now. And even in hind sight it depends on the eyes that see whether we determine a prediction as being fulfilled or not. They are all just stories.

Do we think that 2012 will be a big shift in consciousness for the planet? Look out the window if you live in the city. Go to a shopping mall. Watch the so called “News”. How many wars are happening on the planet right now? How many power games are going on in the business arena and the political arena? How do we treat each other? Does it look like we are about to wake up and create an enlightened society around the next corner? No, it will take several centuries. So stop thinking about 2012 and connect with the Now instead. Connect with Presence. The solution does not exist in time. It is of another dimension. When a spiritual teacher is talking about or promising you liberation at some point in time – be aware. They are trying to manipulate you. How can we be sure? Because enlightenment is beyond time. Time is only inside the mind. And freedom is beyond. Get back to the real work – the practice of Presence.

Imagine one night you are taking a stroll by the seafront. There are lamps for every 50 meters and suddenly you see a man underneath one of the lamps looking for something. You approach him and ask him if he has lost something. He says: “yes, I have lost my key”. You take a quick look around and see the key is not there. You ask him. “Are you sure you lost it here?” He says: No, I lost it 25 meters back but there is no light there, so I am looking here instead.” ☺

The powers of Samsara (illusions of the mind) are strong – especially the veils of pseudo spirituality. When we are looking for the key outside ourselves (under the lamp) in the form of deekshas, prophecies, short cut practices or spiritual popstars, we will never find it. When we are looking for freedom inside, slowly our eyes adjust and our vision will clear. Presence will dissolve the programming holding us stuck and suddenly the light of the source will break through and awakening happens.

We do not go to bed as a 14 year old and wake up 44 the next day, do we? We have to do the journey and nobody knows when we are set free. Those are the rules in this game. There is endless time for this wonderful process to unfold. And it doesn't end with enlightenment. The journey just continues after the breakthrough – with a difference in perception – but so much learning still happening. So what's the hurry? The slower we walk the faster we get there.

We should do spiritual practice for the love of life. And we will love life because we do spiritual practice.

We are truly grateful for all the gifts we have received from Oneness University and all our other teachers and will do our best to bring them forward in a way which is authentic for us and beneficial for the big WE.

May all beings live in freedom and profound joy!

Cecil and Bruhn  
Center for Inner Freedom

[www.onenesscenter.org](http://www.onenesscenter.org) soon to change to [www.innerfreedom.dk](http://www.innerfreedom.dk)