



In the earliest stage of Buddhist development (500 BCE - 100 CE), adherence to scripture was generally considered the primary means to Buddhist salvation, or awakening. However, a secondary stage in Buddhism, called Mahayana (Large Vehicle) suggested that insight, rather than right-belief, is the cardinal principle in BuddhaConsciousness. This development increased the authority of contemplative teachers, while undermining the preeminence of orthodox scriptures and traditions.

Non-duality philosopher Alan Watts states, for example, that Zen, a development in Mahayana Buddhism, may be characterized as “a direct transmission [of revelation], outside of Scripture and apart from tradition. No dependence on words and letters. Direct pointing to the human mind. And, seeing into one’s TrueNature, becoming Buddha.” This same trend is an inevitability for Christianity as well.

As more Christians, or even ex-Christians, adopt contemplative practices, Christ grows nearer to humanity. It appears that non-dual enlightenment, the heart of Christ Consciousness, is already seeded in the psyche, providing for the perennial realization that creation is alive, rather than mechanical, and functions as an indivisible whole, rather than dissociable. What we are looking at, so to speak, is what is looking.

Though Buddhism is non-theistic, it resonates with Christian mystics, like Meister Eckhart, who remind us that: “The soul that wants nothing but God, must forsake everything, even God.” Ideas, including divine ideas, organize comparatively, which separate, rather than bind. Meister Eckhart offers excellent instruction on realizing our TrueNature:

Understand this truly that remaining quite still,
Leaving memory, reason and will behind,
For as long at a time, as possible,
Is the best thing you can do.

Meister Eckhart