

THE OBSERVER'S NOOK

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“The direct path is narrow but very straight. We have made it narrow in the process of retreating from error. We keep the feet on familiar and yet restricted tracks. If we wander to and fro as we go we may become distracted by parallel phantom paths, that beg for our attention with promises of joy rides and possibility-toys strewn all along the way.” –Richard Rose

Richard Rose was a man of unwavering conviction as anyone will tell you, whether neighbor or student, who knew him personally. Those of us who were graced with the opportunity to hear him speak, talk with him one on one, or sit in on informal meetings with him present, came away with an undeniable sense of having been changed in some way. Our own convictions and beliefs had been shaken and we were challenged to take a second look at the way we were living and thinking. Now, over thirty years later, people are still picking up the books, listening to the audio lectures and sending inquiries to the Richard Rose Teachings site because, despite all the changes in the social and spiritual environment over the years, the Truth is still the Truth and Richard Rose's words continue to ring that proverbial bell in peoples' minds. From Amsterdam to Australia, and Canada to the Virgin Islands, I hear the same comments – “Richard Rose's philosophy appealed to my intuition. He provides insight into my most profound questions concerning the path to Reality, Enlightenment and Absolute Truth.” On the most basic level, he lays out a path and a system

through his books, notes and lectures that truly reflects the mind of an enlightened teacher. His message cuts through the fog and confusion that so many seekers experience, even after years of so-called spiritual work. He makes light of this in “The First Paper” of *The Albigen Papers*:

“The worst illusions (those most difficult to overcome) are the religious, philosophic and scientific illusions. More astute and complex minds draw the blueprints for religious and scientific illusions, and consequently they create more complicated labyrinths. And as we penetrate these, we find that the different sets or kinds of illusions interpenetrate one another, and thus increase complexity and frustration.”

Several individuals have been so moved by his writings that they have undertaken the task of setting up study groups. The inspiration they received from reading *The Albigen Papers* sparked the fire. Here's a quote from “The Sixth Paper” that perhaps provided some impetus for that action:

“It is true that much of our mind is filled with garbage that clings like barnacles to a stem of make-believe, vanity, or ego. But we need not subsidize a marble palace in Kashmir just to remove those barnacles. The barnacles will start to fall away with meditation, self-analysis, and the encouragement of analysis and criticism from our friends.”

On the same hand, he advises us to develop discernment and intuition, particularly about choosing a teacher or spiritual system. All of these are taught within the Albigen System, beginning with the retreat from error. Such simple

ideas but so over-looked by those who have adopted a sort of posturing, as Mr. Rose called it, in order to impress potential followers.

I hope that you will find the following submissions to this edition of the Newsletter to be inspiring and compelling. As always, please feel free to send us your comments. Also, let us know if we can publish those comments.

To all of our readers, thank you again for your support and contributions to the Richard Rose Teachings site. We look forward to hearing from you.

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The blog site at www.pyramidzen.blogspot.com continues to draw attention from those who wish to learn more about Richard Rose's Albigen System. I would like to personally thank the monitors and participants who continue to keep the teachings of Richard Rose available to all those who seek the Truth.

A TESTIMONIAL FROM THE MIDWEST **BY ANDREW C. MCMASTER**

Religious practices, rites, dogmas, or observations, in themselves, never lead to realization of the Absolute. I had come to that conclusion, but wasn't consciously aware of it, last year when I went searching for a western spiritual practice, based on the inner search. I was tired of the transplanted, Eastern (Christianity IS an Eastern religion) isms, dogmas, rites, and egos that were being sold as spirituality in this country, and the lure of big name, two hundred dollar a weekend teachers and gurus. I sensed that the words of Nisargatta Maharaj expressed it best:

"What is religion? A cloud in the sky. I live in the sky, not in the clouds, which are so many words held together. Remove the verbiage and what remains? Truth remains.

Christianity is one way of putting words together and Hinduism is another. The real is, behind and beyond words, incommunicable, directly experienced, explosive in its effect on the mind. It is easily had when nothing else is wanted. The unreal is created by imagination and perpetuated by desire.

For most of the people, service of their bodies and their minds is their religion. They may have religious ideas, but they do not act on them. Until you are free of the drug [of self-identification], all your religions and sciences, prayers and yogas are of no use to you, for, based on a mistake, they strengthen it."

When I came across the writings of Richard Rose on the Internet, I intuitively related to his “experience” and to the humble way in which he went about trying to pass it on.

The difficulty he had in relating what he had experienced, in words, and his insistence that it was not a rose garden, but the death of the self, were in accord with my own limited, intuitive realizations, and the accounts of other men who I believed to be self-realized.

I had to go to my dictionary to re-learn the meaning of gregarious, as I read Mister Rose relate the nature of the herd and what we give up to be accepted as one of its members. Accepting what we see and think as real, we identify with our body and retreat from the Truth. Mister Rose describes, conversely, a way to retreat from the Untruth. Most systems or isms have not produced men or women who have experienced the Absolute. Systems and isms are just tools, and a tool is only as good as the craftsman. Systems and isms, by nature, perpetuate the ego and its falseness. Their rites, their dues, their initiations, are all ego driven and lead away from the Truth. In the Zen terms of Huangbo, they use the mind to seek the Mind or “ride the Ox to find the Ox.” This is a proposition that is doomed to failure.

After years of frustration and false leads, Mister Rose experienced that which is True and, ultimately, ALL that there IS. He set about to help those who sincerely sought the Truth, and in the process, exposed the dead-end of ego-centered religious practice and herd-centered psychology. Intuitively, after reading self-realized men like Huangbo and Nisargadatta Maharaj, and my own

experience looking inside, I feel that Mister Rose has a system that will help men and women who seek to become the Truth. A simple and humble man from West Virginia, who experienced the Absolute and found more than he expected, or bargained for, Mister Rose seems to say to me, more than anything else, “Be careful, you might get what you are looking for.”

Be that as it may, I am reading the books Mister Rose left us, and following his suggestions. The interest in Pyramid Zen here in the mid-west has, to date, been modest, but I am going to keep “throwing mud at the ceiling”.

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**POLITICAL CORRECT VS. REALITY
AND THE TRUTH
BY LEE O. WARFIELD, III**

Make no mistake about it, Political Correct is purely political; it is never correct. Political Correct is an invention of man and devised by man solely to fulfill, rationalize, justify and legitimize his wishes, wants, hopes, dreams, desires and lusts. Its sole purpose is to address and accommodate our feelings, including fear.

One might more accurately call Political Correct the Santa Claus Syndrome, and like the concept of Santa Claus, Political Correct is pure fantasy and no more than wishful thinking. No matter how you try to legislate it, there is no Santa Claus. By their very nature, Reality and Truth cannot be legislated or altered by the whim of man, no matter how well

meaning.

Political Correct is not about what IS and has no relation to both Reality and Truth and will never lead to a true understanding or wisdom about anything. In fact, by its very nature, Political Correct is diametrically opposed to what IS and Reality and Truth or any true understanding or wisdom about anything. Again, Political Correct is a device of man and not of Reality. It is not Real; it has been conjured up for purely political purposes, hence its name.

Political Correct does not work in any arena: not in the political, for which it is named, and not in the social, not in the economic, not in the psychological, not in the emotional, not in the moral, not in the ethical, not in the philosophical, not in the religious, not in the spiritual, etc. It is a lie and should be exposed, accepted and recognized for what it really is: pure nonsense. Therefore, for anyone seeking the Truth as it pertains to anything, including and especially any seeker on a spiritual path or anyone seeking deep and real healing or meaning, Political Correct is a concept that needs to be discarded at the very outset of any pursuit that aims toward realization of that which IS and about Reality, Truth and Wisdom.

Any system that claims to be or even smells of being Political Correct is terribly flawed and suspect and should be disregarded at all cost right from the very beginning. By its very nature, you cannot use a lie to find or define that which IS and Real and True. The truth of the matter is that Political Correct seeks to subvert and negate that which IS and Real and True and, more

importantly, our perception of it. It is nothing less than a blatant attempt to subvert our innate psyche and intuition through political indoctrination and intimidation.

By their very definition, Reality and Truth exist in and of themselves. They are Absolute, Eternal and uncompromising and cannot be negated, changed or legislated. They cannot be voted on; hence they are not political. They simply ARE and EXIST with or without us. They were not created by man, and their purpose is not about what is fair and popular or about our feelings. They are and define the very realm we live in and define our very being. To find them and accept them is to find the very depths of the human soul and experience.

Richard Rose was diametrically and vehemently opposed to all that is Political Correct and any and all attempts to legislate Reality and Truth and any and all attempts to alter our perception of them, as is well documented in all of his written works, speeches and teaching. As Richard Rose said repeatedly about his Albigen System: The purpose of the Albigen System, first and foremost, is to aid in finding the Truth in all things – firstly, in the mundane, everyday and worldly and, secondly and more importantly, in the spiritual and Profound – through “the retreat from error”. It is a system that seeks to uncover, negate and discard all that is false and untrue, leaving in its place only that which is Real and True. It is a process that requires a great and unwavering effort, energy, intention, diligence, determination and commitment.

From personal experience, coming into the full presence of Reality and recognizing it and finding Truth – whether in the mundane, everyday and worldly or the spiritual and Profound – is quite sobering. It is both liberating and enlightening; however, it, also, can be devastating and akin to dying – drowning in your own tears of despair. In the process you just might meet your Maker, as I did; and you can rest assured that He cannot and will not accept any lie, no matter how well meaning or well intended. When given the choice, there is no choice: There is only one Reality. It is True and most definitely not political but most definitely correct.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

We would like to encourage all of our readers to submit articles such as Andrew's and Lee's to the next newsletter. Mail them to: The Editor, info@richardroseteachings.com. The newsletter is posted and distributed quarterly, so the deadline for the next issue would be around June 1st. And if you've been so inspired as to form a study group, please send us the updates and any helpful hints to others who might wish to do the same.

We would also like to hear from those who worked directly with Mr. Rose and can share some of the personal insights and experiences that came about as a result of using the Albigen System as a ways and means to Self Realization.

OUR READERS SAY....

I'm new to Mr. Rose's teachings. Several days ago, I "accidentally" stumbled upon a mention of his name in a blog about

Jed McKenna somewhere, in which the author of the blog said that Jed McKenna - whose books have really resonated deeply with me - must be a fictional person, and added that, for a while, he even thought that Rose was actually writing under that name, but over time this presumption proved incorrect.

Needless to say, I was very intrigued by what I read about Mr. Rose in that blog, and searched further on the info about him. The search led me to the official site, which I find excellent. I heard several mp3 samples of Mr. Rose's teachings, and I couldn't help but feel so close to him. There was something warm and utterly lucid about him.

Two days ago the "Albigen Papers" arrived, and I am looking forward to the CD's. The sincere tone of both Rose's and McKenna's writings deeply resonates with me. No fairy-tale approach to this utmost important issue of what the true essence of man is.

--Lajla M.
Amsterdam



RICHARD ROSE DURING A BREAK AT A SYMPOSIUM, CIRCA 1977.