Exemplary Behavior

"The projections of others do not belong to me. I am never a teacher, just a lover who has been given a glimpse of the Beloved."
- Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee

The British general Wellington is said to have commented that a man can be a hero to everyone but his valet. The observation is similar to Jesus’ saying that no prophet is without honor except in his home town. Awakening, or the Understanding, does not in any case make a perfect human being or a saint out of the body/mind organism in which it has occurred; and those who feel they know the person most intimately may be the ones most likely to see the everyday imperfections and be the least able to see beyond them.

That awakening should produce a perfect being is a deep misconception, and a popular one. People seem to think they need awakened spiritual masters to begin with, and
further that they need their awakened spiritual masters to be the embodiment of a certain set of (usually traditional) virtues. And since most traditional ideas of spirituality are pretty far divorced from physicality, emotions, urges, and feelings, people need their spiritual masters to be divorced from these things as well, especially from what is judged the ‘negative’ or ‘dark’ sides of these.

All this is nonsense of course. There is no such entity as an awakened spiritual master to begin with. In the manifestation of Consciousness there are, among other things, these body/mind organisms commonly called human beings. According to the nature of these body/mind organisms, there arise from time to time emotions, urges, needs, thoughts, feelings, physical and emotional impulses. In the Understanding, there is no judgment of any of these as negative or positive, light or dark, desirable or undesirable, appropriate or not. They simply are, and simply arise as part of the purely impersonal functioning of the organisms in Consciousness. From the perspective of the Understanding, when there is no longer identification as this particular body/mind organism, which particular feeling or need or thought or emotion arises in which particular body/mind organism is of no significance. Including the body/mind organism in which the Understanding has occurred. These things arise as part of the functioning of the organisms. So what?

While one in whom awakening has not happened may well be concerned with whether they are or are not acting or emoting or thinking or appearing in an ‘appropriate’ or ‘enlightened’ manner, to the body/mind organism in which the Understanding has occurred this is of no particular concern. The whole issue only arises
when there is identification as a particular body/mind. Why should there be any special concern or interest here whether the david thing gets sad or angry or occasionally feels confused or acts inconsiderately? These things may not seem desirable, but desirable to whom, and from what perspective? They arise as part of the functioning of all body/mind organisms in Consciousness, according to the programming and conditioning of the organisms.

“When enlightenment happens, the organism does not become perfect. It is whole and the whole includes both opposites. Seeking perfection is the basic, primary folly and the jnani understands that. That is the basis of the understanding. Whatever happens is part of the functioning of Totality.” (Ramesh)

In this case, there is much in the conditioning and programming of the david body/mind organism to judge or dislike, for those who are so inclined. Irritable, impatient, a tendency to be easily overwhelmed, and generally poor social skills which can appear as arrogance or dismissiveness; any behavior the origins of which are not understood can be easily labeled.

And to the dismay of some who have been close or intimate, the Understanding itself does not instantly produce a perfect human being, a saint! The dream character to a large extent continues to be the dream character it was, with essentially the same conditioning and programming. It seems certain that this organism was not designed to ever be playing the role of saint or beloved teacher; there is little here to inspire devotion. More like the voice crying out in the wilderness; the iconoclast, the contrarian.
Perfect Brilliant Stillness

Of course, from the point of view of the body/mind organism in which it occurs, the Understanding itself, whatever else it is, is a massive dose of new conditioning. And so there are apparent shifts. The extreme sensitivity that is here in this body/mind is simply observed, along with its other characteristics, and not judged one way or the other. A certain startling compassion appears where before there was little. And I would have to say that there is a continual occurrence of what can only be called small miracles, considering the rough character in which they are occurring: layers of old patterns of behavior and thinking that, without attention or effort, simply cease or fall away.

The perspective, the perception from ‘within’ is entirely transformed; I know I am not david, that david never existed except as a hollow and only apparent instrument through which Presence flows. There is no longer any sense of being an individual self; only the deep, constant Brilliance beyond light, the steady, profound Peace beyond peace, and constant upwelling gratitude for and in All. From ‘within,’ any ‘undesirable’ characteristics are seen with indifference, perhaps some amusement: undesirable according to whom?!

Questioner: “It is said that a realized person will show exemplary behavior in every way.”
Maharaj: “Why? Exemplary according to whose standards?”

Thus there is no particular motive to ‘try’ to ‘change’ ‘my’ ‘self’ (as none of these concepts have any reality) other than the ongoing acknowledgement (prayer) in All that is... ‘Thy will be done’... and the knowledge that this too shall pass. What will be, will be; and then that too shall pass.
In the course of this dream there will be apparent change and molding of this body/mind organism as there is of all such, but into what there is no knowing. “My skin is not my own.”

This flies in the face of traditional ideas, and the ego-ideals of all the spiritual seekers who want noble, beloved and definitely well behaved spiritual teachers and masters to put on a pedestal and who will show them by example the way to escape from all the messy negative dark stuff of life.

It’s fantasy. Listen. There is no escape. What you want to be free from, what you reject, what you want not to be, want your teachers not to be, is It. Is Presence, is Consciousness. This, here. No one needs a spiritual teacher, certainly not one on a pedestal, to show them something else. There is nothing else. Judging it ‘dark side’ or ‘light side’ is the illusion. If you’re not disillusioned with your spiritual teacher, he isn’t doing his job. A spiritual teacher worth his or her salt is in the dis-illusion-ment business.