"Our original nature is, in highest truth, devoid of any atom of objectivity. It is void, omnipresent, silent, pure; it is glorious and mysterious peaceful joy and that is all. Enter deeply into it by yourself awakening."

- Huang Po
Reality's cloister
   the circumscribing barrier
   no vision can detect no thought penetrate
in one glance this beyond-which-nothing
   at a single point pierced by not-this
shatters
   into nothingness
dissolving the fabric
   undoing the weaving of the veil

   can there be any identity when there is this
   knowing, immediate irrevocable
     i am not, nor any else –
can there then be any role for the ghost
found standing in the mist
   of that dissolved veil?
   no seer sage, no guru guide –
can there be any guiding on a journey such as this?
a journey from here to here
   a voyage neither begun nor ended
   along no path, a billion paths
   no traveller. no returning

the only bodhisattva's vow –
simply Being this One All I Am
   no fear, no attachment
   no intention or expectation
   no separation no connection
   no identity
   uncaring
Presence
   Being
   Stillness here
and so Being be emptiness
   an opening

forever seeing I, amidst I unseeing –

All That Is – That Is All
The following are quotations and references not credited in the text:


also on page vii: “When you are very quiet...” This unusually quixotic quote from Maharaj is from Consciousness and the Absolute: The Final Talks of Sri Nisargadatta Maharaj, Jean Dunn, ed., Durham, NC: Acorn Press, 1994, page 76. Thank you Michael.

pages 14 and 373: “...Settles forevermore the ponderous equator to its line...” from Ralph Waldo Emerson, Lectures and Biographical Sketches, Honolulu, Hawaii: University Press of the Pacific, 2003.

pages 36, 64, 100, 141, and 271: “...the peace that passes all understanding...” from the Christian scriptures, Philippians 4:7.

pages 41, 73, and 225: “The Tao that can be spoken...” these are the famous opening lines of Lao Tzu’s Tao Te Ching, Gia-Fu Feng & Jane English, trans. New York: Random House Vintage Books, 1989.

pages 50 and 220: “...not my will but Thine be done...” from the Christian scriptures, Gospel of Matthew 26:39.

pages 50 and 222: “...only he who loses his life will find it...” from the Christian scriptures, Gospel of Matthew 10:39.

page 58: “...eye has not seen nor has ear heard nor has the human heart conceived...” from the Christian scriptures, I Corinthians 2:9.


page 88: “I trust I make myself obscure?” is attributed to Sir Thomas More in the movie, A Man For All Seasons. Commentary on theological and metaphysical discussions in general.

page 102: “...a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing...” from William Shakespeare, Macbeth, Act V, Scene 5.

page 113 and 164: “No Guru, No Method, No Teacher” is from Van Morrison’s song In The Garden, on the album No Guru, no Method, no Teacher, Polygram Records, 1986. (Van Morrison has another song, and album, entitled Enlightenment, but that didn’t seem relevant.)
pages 122, 135, 183, 201, and variations *passim*: “Consciousness is all there is.” This concept was a mainstay of Ramesh Balsekar’s early teaching, and will be familiar to anyone who has read his earlier books or listened to his talks in the period prior to around the year 2000. An example among many too numerous to cite: *Consciousness Speaks*, Redondo Beach, CA: Advaita Press, 1992, page 22. Needless to say perhaps: if Consciousness is all there is, there is no thing else.

page 181: “We dance ‘round in a ring and suppose...” and “When we understand, we are at the center...” My appreciation to Stephen Mitchell, who juxtaposed these two texts in the Foreword to his book, *The Enlightened Heart*, New York: Harper Collins, 1989.

page 185: “...we are such stuff as dreams are made on...” from William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Act IV, Scene 1.


> Anything that happens, happens.
> Anything that, in happening, causes something else to happen, causes something else to happen.
> Anything that, in happening, causes itself to happen again, happens again.
> It doesn’t necessarily do it in chronological order, however.

With an appreciation for the import of the last line, is it possible to find anything in this which is inconsistent with the profound teaching of the perennial wisdom?

page 243: “...a voice of one crying out in the wilderness...” from the Hebrew scriptures, *Isaiah 40:3*.

page 245: “My skin is not my own.” from Frank Herbert, *Children of Dune*, New York: Penguin Books, 1987. Herbert’s *Dune* series is an allegorical tale of awakening if ever there was: “The sleeper must awaken.” As in *The Matrix*, the fanciful concepts of what it is that is awakened to are useless, but that’s not surprising. It is the metaphor of waking up that is well illustrated in both.


page 259: "per omnia saecula saeculorum." from the Roman Catholic tradition, a commonly used ending for prayers, occurring frequently in the Latin mass. Its usual translation was "world without end," which not only misses the original sense but also introduces a bizarre concept, as the Catholic church in fact explicitly teaches that the world will come to an end. A more faithful translation might be "through all ages of ages," or "throughout all eternities, eternally," which comes closer to the sense of timelessness in which it is used here. (There are no ex-Catholics, only recovering Catholics.)


page 373: "...the devil can cite Scripture..." from William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*, Act I, Scene 2.

page 381: "Ken Wilber was once asked...." This is from an interview with *Shambhala Sun* magazine, and appeared in the September 1996 issue. It can also be found in Ken Wilber, *One Taste: Daily Reflections on Integral Spirituality*, Boston: Shambhala Publications, 2000, page 325.
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