

The Golden Vessel

The spiritual heart is a shrine of both self-awareness and will-force. It is also the stage when one comes into touch with one's spiritual self or life force and practical devotion is initiated inside the heart. Truth's face is hidden under a golden vessel, and only one devoted to truth can see it. On scrutiny, the profound insights gained by Vedic sages are through the combination of the two in the mystery of creation. In reality, there is no discrimination among these stages, as these stages make a particular whole. Every stage is vital for spiritual growth, and none is superior to others. Every aspirant passes through three stages: purification of the mind from past learning, memory, discarded egos, illumination of the self, and ultimate union with Absolute Reality or God. Even without the former two – purification of mind and illumination of the self– we do not deserve to be united with the Absolute. At every moment, it is ever possible to be connected to the Absolute, and if it is not, then there is no God. The discovery of the golden vessel or spiritual heart and the experience of the soul shining within belong to the second stage–the illumination of the self. However, even during the first stage of purification of the mind, it is possible to be connected with God. Death is never a departure; it is a path to move toward the glory of the divine light and the golden threshold of immortality. However, this has not been achieved yet. What is to be achieved already exists.