

Can We Know the Unknowable?

Teachers tell us that we should regularly meditate on God and then take what we have discovered in meditation into our daily life. Frequently, we don't have anything to take with us, but sometimes we can have an insight, other times, a feeling experience, perhaps peace, perhaps ecstasy. Occasionally we may even hear a sound like Om, or we may have physical manifestations.

All these things can happen, and we can take the memory of them into our daily life. However, sooner or later the experience will fade away. And as Ramaṇa Maharṣi said, "Whatever has a beginning has an end and, therefore, cannot be the eternal."

What is it that has no beginning and has no end and, therefore, is the eternal? Can it be something that we know with the mind? If we think about it, it obviously cannot be, because whatever the mind knows will have a beginning and will have an end. But still, we are determined to know the Unknowable with our mind, and we keep on trying to know the Unknowable until we finally come to the conclusion that unknowable means unknowable.

That Unknowable is always present with us whether we are in meditation or not in meditation. It is this fact that is meant to be taken into our daily life. The eternal is always with us, always there to comfort and guide us. But it can never be grasped in its essence, so we shouldn't be misled when It shines forth in different experiences. Those experiences have their own purpose, but, ultimately, they are all meant to lead us to the realization of the unknowable God that is always present. It never leaves us, and it is where we are meant to take refuge. That mystery is our real home.