

• Towards a unified understanding of philosophy, science, religion, and the arts •

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*All things arise and cease due to  
interdependent causes and conditions*

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## The Universal Teacher Within

by

Bing Escudero

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**Summa Sophia**

1175 Harrington Place NE #212

Renton WA 98056

U.S.A.

Phone (425) 227-6979

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*Summa Sophia* is a desktop publication in a folded single-sheet format, focusing on significant spirituality subjects for study, meditation, and investigative application, as well as for enlightening discussions in small group meetings.



## The Universal Teacher Within

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- 1 • Every person has a true teacher within, the real fountainhead of universal understanding. Because this teacher can be found in each one of us, the omnipresence becomes truly universal. Thus, the true universal service is that of awakening the universal teacher within ourselves, as well as in helping others to come to this universal realization.
- 2 • As we seek the truth together, so shall we find, and, thus the process of true teaching unfolds. The teacher learns again (and again, if need be), together with the taught, becoming the best form of teaching at every moment of learning.
- 3 • Throughout the ages, the aspiration for truth has persisted. But this tends to be replaced by the search for the guru or a personal spiritual teacher. Otherwise, the common substitute is for the dependence upon an approved religious personality associated with a version of an unerring belief in an absolute Deity, catering to the insecurity of people. As the mind cowers into the safety of numbers, the larger crowd attracts the more ambitious leaders who seek positions of dominance among the masses. The solution? Be free.
- 4 • The true teacher is one who helps others come to that spiritual freedom by awakening the teacher within. No one can truly teach another person. We end up teaching ourselves. This is why mistakes bring us to a rude awakening. On the other hand, this is why right action quickens discovery of that benevolent universal enlightenment.
- 5 • The question might arise. If one has not yet found the true teacher within, how can the service for the less fortunate find what the server has not yet found? The discovery of truth is in the selflessness of the service rendered. For it is the spirit of selfless service that expresses the highest truth. And, this truth, ever dwells within. Then as the truth wells forth into service from within, so is the same truth found in every other unfoldment that is served.
- 6 • There are principles. And, there are experiences. The experience is the illusion. The principle is the reality. Realize this and don't miss it—the experience is the shadow, the principle is the light. Above all, you are the *light*. When your light touches another light, the communication comes into perfect communion. Then the light ever shines brighter for all.
- 7 • Relating personal experiences may appear to help, but they actually do *not*. What it does is to propagate a belief. But beliefs do not teach. For when the human mind does not know, it resorts to a belief as a substitute for knowledge. Then the mind thinks, it knows. But it does not. It merely *thinks* it knows. And, therein, is the illusion that activates into self-righteous absolutisms.



8 • Finding the spiritual guru or teacher is laudable. It means one is eager to learn and to work for it. But in meeting a guru, the question is—Is this *your* guru? This may be someone else's guru, but *not* yours. Among other things, the real guru does not collect disciples. Neither do they plate a collection. A guru-disciple relationship is not a one-to-one but a *one-to-the-One* commitment. And this is *not* limited to just the physical world as most people think they already know it.

9 • The only assurance that the guru you meet is truly your spiritual guru *is* if the guru is your own higher selfless self. Teachers of true spirituality will never undertake to replace the teacher within you. Instead, they point directly to your own teacher that awaits your approach within, awakening you to your own higher spiritual nature. You are most fortunate to find such an opportunity open before you, helping you to find your very own teacher within you.

10 • Only those who have found themselves can really help others find the reality of their true nature. But such teachers remain unknown. To the extent that we have made the real effort to know ourselves, in theory and in practice, so do we draw the unknown teachers into the fulfillment of our selfless aspirations.

11 • The supreme criterion that determines, if not strongly compels, a possible inner guru-disciple relationship is in that unqualified dedication to, and, in that purity of purpose for, the service and upliftment of humanity as a whole.

12 • In humility, you cannot even entertain the feeling that you are special, deserving or meritorious, or that you belong to some elevated elite. Neither do even sense a status that you are somehow saved, advanced or superior by some accolade or bombastic title that might be accorded to you. Nothing of these fleeting illusions are to ever tinge your consciousness. True humility ever remains stainless, transparent, and, utterly silent.

13 • The mountain top within is strewn with debacles. There are challenges to conquer. Problems to resolve. Steps to be scaled. Difficulties to endure. Failures to arise from. Mistakes to be corrected. Errors to be avoided. Misdeeds to be mended. Beliefs to be banished. Superstitions to be stripped. Sufferings to surmount. Stresses to be unstressed. Efforts to be exerted. Effortlessness to be mastered. Mentalities to be unmasked. Vanities to be vanquished. Meditations to be mindful. Wisdom to be won. With a host of wholeness, in holiness to wholeheartedly understand.

14 • Yet no (such a) one is truly alone. In the unknown service dedicated to the larger whole of humanity, the unknowable cosmic whole of the universe comes to one's aid, and, ever unto the same measure that one's offerings of help to others are as faithful and verily true to the core.



15 • There are many mysteries in the universe. And mysteries within mysteries. Yet as there are veils upon veils, there naturally follow the unveilings after unveilings. But the inner eye must first open. And when opened, its vision must still penetrate as deeply as one can fully understand. There, at last, the inner vision and the light of wisdom are in that indivisible unity.

16 • Deathless and birthless are the mysteries. Yet all life is sustained. The same truth dwells in the shallowness of the mind and abides in the mortality of the body. Who can decipher this paradox? None else than the Questioner who is, at the same time, the true Answer. Until one has raised the question in complete silence, the clarity of pure silence cannot be deeply understood.

17 • Even as the ears are there to listen to the one truth, it cannot remain without hearing the sufferings and unknowing cries of humanity. Yet the universe is there not to deny truth to anyone but to reveal itself. As the outer ear becomes deaf to the unreal, thus, shall the inner ear open to the real.

18 • There will be doctrines, secret or revealed, hidden or unveiled, pure or profane. Yet the one true doctrine is that which is devoid of doctrinaire or the indoctrinated. What there is, *is* not reason or revelation but realization, discovery, and, purification.

19 • You will venture into the dark and look for the light. And you will not find it. For it shines not from without, but from within. When you see the light, you will think that you have found it. But it is not there where you saw it. For the universe has merely reflected back to you the light from which you are the very source, making you think that the light is where it appeared to you.

20 • Without and within. The light is everywhere. When it is not seen without, it ever awaits our awakened inner-vision. When it is seen within, then there is the light that shines in all, even if there be but darkness without.

21 • You will seek the savior even as it is the savior that seeks your salvation. For in seeking the truth, it is the truth that looks after the seeker. When the truth of the seeker, the savior, and the salvation are fully realized in their original oneness, then will you find that there was no one who needed any saving at all—for the one truth is the undivided All that ever was, forever is, and always will be.

22 • Words may be able to tell and convey, communicate and convince, but this can hardly replace that deep compassion and profound understanding. Thus, where sayings upon sayings may venture into, only the all-knowing supreme silence within will whisper what is more than can be truly said.