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

~Δ~

Reality and Ritual

By

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Reality and Ritual

1. Ritual reveals and conceals reality.
2. A ritual is perfected by discipline.
3. In the exercise of discipline, there is self-control.
4. Without self-control, one is waylaid by illusion.
5. When ritual is approached as an object or as a requirement from without, reality is concealed.
6. The concealment of ritual draws one to the mystery.
7. Let the concealment draw you to the mystery.
8. When ritual is viewed as a means to a higher order, reality is a revelation of the mystery.
9. When ritual is transformed into living the higher order, meaning, from Personality to Spirituality, reality is a realization of the mystery. *(See Chart: The Seven ...)*
10. The element of ritual is essential to survival. Working, resting, eating, hygiene, protecting, conserving, etc.
11. Spiritual rituals are done in sanctified space (selflessness).
12. The finer rituals are metaphors of higher realities.
13. A ritual is no higher than our perception of it.
14. By higher reality, we mean the original order of the universe of which we are part and parcel.
15. Sanctified space is an expression of wholeness.
16. The wholeness begins and ends with the ritual participant.
17. The place, people, positions, paraphernalia, procedure, perceptions, paradigms are all dedicated to the spirit of service.

18. That is why a sacred ritual is a selfless service.
19. The service emerges from the wholeness that evokes the same harmonious quality needed in the discords of the world.
20. The wholeness is the holiness that is the sacred.
21. Rituals are but aids to the elevation of consciousness.
22. The individual initiates the primary endeavor, the spiritual aspiration for the ideals, while engaging the ritual, from mechanics to significance.
23. Ritual devoid of self-transformation is enslavement.
24. Ritual that transforms, from self to selflessness, leads to spiritual freedom.
25. When ritual is repeated without a corresponding elevation of consciousness, boredom ensues.
26. Boredom is the result of the perception of ritual as entertainment, something to watch with curiosity, novelty and fascination.
27. When the curiosity disappears, novelty wears out, the fascination diminishes. In the wearing out and the diminution, the watching disappears. Participation is gone.
28. If you must watch a ritual, let the mind watch with wonder.
29. Better still, watch the mind watching with wonder.
30. Zenlike, if you believe in ritual, I don't; if you don't believe in ritual, I do. Then, we learn to think for ourselves.
31. When ritual is a celebration of the real, there is no contradiction; all polarities are in a state of wholeness.
32. That is the whole truth. Simple as That! ~ Δ ~

Chart: The Seven Main Pillars of the Temple

