

## **FOUR**

### **THE POWER OF LOVE**

#### **Meditation 07: Responsibility**

*Today, more than ever before, life must be characterized by a sense of Universal responsibility, not only nation to nation and human to human, but also human to other forms of life.*

Dalai Lama

*Most people do not really want freedom, because freedom involves responsibility, and most people are frightened of responsibility.*

Sigmund Freud

*You must take personal responsibility. You cannot change the circumstances, the seasons, or the wind, but you can change yourself.*

*That is something you have charge of.*

Jim Rohn

With great power comes responsibility, and with great love comes great responsibility. Because great love is great power. And there is no love – and hence no power – greater than the ‘atomic’ power of the Soul. Or ‘atma-ic’, perhaps we should say, just to avoid nasty misunderstandings.

‘Responsibility’ is here at the end of the Love chapter because it’s the logical conclusion to all that has gone before. Once we’re established in the experience of the ineffable and unstoppable power of love that is our True Self, learning how to enhance and nurture that experience daily, we automatically start having an effect on who and what’s around us. As soon as the journey into inner space is under way, not only does our ‘vibe’ have a subtle effect on people and their immediate mental /emotional atmosphere, we find that we are also motivated to share our experience with others. Whether through simple conversations, teaching, talking, writing, music, art – whatever activity or medium you choose, or chooses you, the beauty that

shines in you and out of you must be shared. It's not yours to own, remember; the same paradox that we dealt with in the 'Ownership' meditation of this chapter is at work. The more you give it away, the more you let it go, the more it comes to you and empowers you.

This is the core of the idea. As you take ownership of your newly discovered true powers, you settle into the new sense of yourself – and Your Self – generated by the changes and realizations you are going through. Part of this process is understanding your 'stewardship', your responsibility when it comes to managing your powers and their effect on other people. They are in You, they are of You, they are You, but they are not yours. Nurture, cherish and care for them as if you were looking after them for someone else. They are a gift, or at least your new awareness of them is a gift, to be received with love and humility, and to be given with love and humility. You are becoming a powerful soul, a being more directly in contact with its own conscious energy than most, and people will recognize you as such.

Personal interactions may be full of sweetness and light – if your interlocutor is disposed in favour of spiritual practice and is him or herself some kind of seeker; they may be mildly uncomfortable, if the other person is not particularly interested, or indeed is even uneasy about engaging in such topics; and even downright unpleasant, if, as can happen, you find yourself in front of a soul whose awareness is so far from a sense of their own true Self that you become a threat to be combated. Strange and unwelcome, but true; there are souls in this world for whom these messages are anathema. The powers of Peace and Love shining out of one pair of eyes can make an angry soul angrier, and twist the knife in a tortured soul's heart. All you can do is avoid.

All this connects to another aspect of responsibility for enlightened beings, perhaps one of the most crucial for your ordinary everyday activity in daily life. Jack Canfield's 'The Success Principles' sets it out just as clear as it needs to be said: 'Don't blame, don't complain – take responsibility.' Anything and everything that happens is ultimately down to you (within reason of course).

This is strong meat and takes some deep 'churning' in meditation to figure out exactly how it works. If, for instance, you are a Soul with Peace, Power and Love shining out of your eyes, it's a mistake to put yourself in front of aforesaid tortured souls, and if bad things happen it's as much your responsibility for being there and provoking them as it is the do-ers' responsibility for doing them. This kind of awareness demands a big heart, a long view and a rock solid confidence in your own power and your own heightened awareness.

It's another perfect duality, a self-contradiction almost, the same one that operates when you let go of your newly discovered powers, or at least you let go of the idea that you own them. Only by letting go can you truly benefit, and bring others benefit, in the knowledge that your power is You but it is not yours. In the same way, the truly enlightened soul who doesn't blame, doesn't complain and accepts responsibility, accepts no blame. He or she does not operate on that lowly level. For us lesser beings it is merely a lesson in living. Of course we accept responsibility for something we have done that may need putting right – a broken window, a broken heart – and in such cases 'blame' is more or less the same thing. The crucial difference is that blame is handed out by others. I accept or reject it – but I take responsibility in the most detached fashion possible. I don't deal in daily tit for tat.