



TRAVELING!

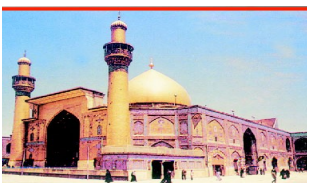
Yoga. This is a new type of newsletter for us to put out. This

is the first time that all of our people will be reading the same thing @ the same time. Mothers and fathers, friends, co-workers, co-conspirators, siblings, my spiritual brothers and sisters (Shalam Alakhom!), etc. This is **the 'Yoga'¹ edition**, a unification of all parts. So, to the business @ hand.



We'll be re-locating in about 5 days, heading to GA. This is 'step 1' in 'plan B' or 'step 2' in 'plan A' or just another step in the 'Master Plan.' The whole step/plan scenario doesn't really work for us. If you know us, you know the value and significance that we place on planning. Let's move to the meat.

Theory. *"Everyone who sets forth eventually retreats. And one retreats to where it is as if one had never existed."* This is a quote of **Hadrat Ali** (that's his grave on the left), a relative and follower of Prophet Muhammad (no picture available). It can be found in a book entitled, *Living and Dying With Grace.* (Continued in the next column.)----->



Some people, for some reason, have a deep-seated desire to be and do some thing that is different from the 'rut' that has been dug out for them. Some of these people act upon these desires. Every culture has built-in mechanisms to deter and punish such actions and behaviors. Under the pressure and experiencing the repercussions of not conforming, when these individuals retreat, they become less than what they were before.

The explorer is now afraid to leave his or her house, the anarchist becomes a staunch supporter of some political party, the revolutionary becomes a police officer, the wanderer becomes the first person @ the time clock every morning, the life of the spirit embraces the dead letter of the law and they disappear into some strange void of passionless non-existence. They are, literally, shamed to death.



It's as if they never existed. The system that they (intentionally or inadvertently) subverted now becomes their mother and they refuse to leave its side for any reason. What happened to those urges and passions? Where did that person disappear to? They fell into the shame of being human. Why are we ashamed of being human? Being human doesn't keep the ship afloat.

"The departure is imminent." This is another quote from **Hadrat Ali** and it is the truth. Everything around you will go away, even yourself. Everything is constantly changing. It seems as if most structures (social, political, religious, economic, mental) are meant to give the illusion of some sort of permanence. When viewed from the broader perspective, there's no such thing as permanent. It all sounds very **Tao**, but everything, as we currently experience it, will depart. Relationships change, ideologies shift, likes become dislikes, joys turn into sorrows, insights become blindness, etc. Departures must occur, but what if we move along with the departures?



Practice. If change is such a formidable force, why not just surrender to it? That's where we come into the story.

Somewhere back there, we decided to give into the winds of change and let it blow us wherever it determined. Easier said than done. When the wind blows, it has a tendency of blowing your skirt of self-pretense up in public. You, and everyone that you would have a preference against, are given the opportunity of seeing the real you. Not as memorable, nor as favorably looked upon, as



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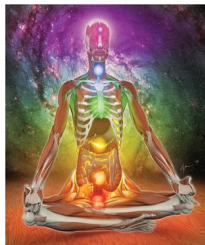
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¹ 'Yoga' means, 'union.'

Norma Jean's display, either. No one is paying us to discover that we are liars and connivers, bitter, scared, confused, incompetent, duplicitous, immature, insecure and so forth. What then, is the benefit in all of the bottom dredging? We have the opportunity to become absolutely human.

The Findings. Change is the most natural thing in the world. It's only painful when you offer resistance. Change, deep change, is the natural process of removing the artificial and foreign from the organism. When we follow our instinctive compulsions, all of the unnatural is brought to the surface to be dealt with. Fear, jealousy, envy, hatred, frustration, sadness, etc. You can acknowledge it so the process of eradication and healing can begin or you can suppress it and allow it to become some sort of sickness (physical, emotional, psychological, social) or dis-ease.



The Conclusion. Our experiences up until this time have led us to this conclusion: The best course of action for us to take is to **CHANGE**. We've pulled up the stakes and decided to let our life blow around. Underneath it all, there is a discernible intelligence that takes care of us and compensates for our weaknesses and shortcomings.



Therefore I tell you, don't be anxious for your life: what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor yet for your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing? See the birds of the sky, that they don't sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns. Your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you of much more value than they?

"Which of you, by being anxious, can add one moment to his lifespan? Why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They don't toil, neither do they spin, yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these. But if Alaha² so clothes the grass of the field, which today exists, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, won't he much more clothe you, you of little faith? (Matt. 6)

We do see the birds and the flowers. They're beautiful and it's incredible. It would be wonderful to be taken care of in the same manner. We don't want to be anxious. Is there any better experience than to see if you can fall into the protection and care of Alaha? No.

Support Us. Everyone that receives this newsletter shares some sort of connection or affinity with us and vice versa. How can you support our undertaking, if you should so desire? Let us change: our minds, our direction, our understanding, our beliefs, our way of living, our selves.

A Free Will Collective. What's up with the name and the flower? For our 16th wedding anniversary, we decided that we didn't want to be married anymore. Marriage (@ least the way that we understood it) had a lot of rules and regulations and obligations and punishments written into the vows. We realized that we were together because we wanted to be involved in each other's life. We failed @ all of marriage's expectations and still loved and liked each other. Since the name didn't fit what we had, it was in our best interest to drop it. We've done this thing for 17 ½ years because we wanted to of our own free will. Why act like it had anything to do with 'marriage'? We, also, realized that we liked and were influenced by other people because we liked **THEM** and **THEIR INFLUENCE** upon us and not some title of relationship. We didn't like the idea of associating with people based upon some superficial description.

The flower is supposed to be growing out of the concrete words. Poor graphics, but they do the trick. Good things pop up in all of the wrong places and @ the wrong times. That's how we view our relationships and existence.

Why You Can't Join. You can't join something that you, naturally, belong to. We all recognize our family members and fellow travelers. If you 'see' us and we 'see' you, the understanding is mutual, "You're in!" No one can copyright the natural movements of creation. On that note, feel free to use the name, logo, information freely and indiscriminately.



- 1. Submission to THE CREATOR will return us to the natural intent & purpose of our existence.**
- 2. This is the ONLY goal.**
- 3. We associate of our own FREE WILL.**

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