

sitting in meditation & contemplation so as to forget or drop the deciding function, --- & then found that they were still DECIDING to be austere, to meditate & so forth --

It is like trying to lift oneself up by one's own bootstraps or to see one's eye, or for a sword to cut itself.

Jesus said "with man it is impossible."

However it wasn't impossible with Jesus or Santama & some few people may have had such a strong impulse that little was needed to produce the abnegation of the self & the surrender of the "I" which leads to the "experience" (of satori, of awakening, of "seeing & knowing God directly")

Yet for all other people, who are not such heroic figures, a master or guru is necessary.

His function is to help the student to surrender, to the removal of ego-dominance, "bossiness" ---

Just as we need an outside point to rest a lever on if we are to move the earth (as Archimedes said) so we need a friend to help our ego-fight FROM AN EXTERIOR POINT OF VIEW FROM OURSELVES.

It is necessary that this "master" be "awakened" himself, because this is NOT a mechanical system and this mystery, this "God" is very much alive, conscious, & directs the process (& everything else) even though in the student it is still HIDDEN. (Our little consciousness hides this big Consciousness like a penny hides the Sun)

Since the ego must be DETHRONED in the student it is a disagreeable, unsatisfying, hard, up-hill process all the way.

WHY?

Because the definition of "agreeable", "pleasant" etc is what we like, what we want, what the "I" desires, what makes it "putt" and happy!

But we wish to act AGAINST it, it is our enemy while it has the boss-complex. It must realize it is an efficient executive officer but not the boss.

Thus the student must do as the master says and agree to do so while the "work" lasts.

(Even with a psychotherapist or surgeon or doctor you are in this position).

The "master" does NOT ENJOY this task, except in so far as the RESULT is so wonderful if achieved.

He is not a sadist, he is not doing this to satisfy