

ENLIGHTENMENT FACT SHEET

Provided by COPE Ministries and authored by Minister Angela Smith

Merriam Webster provides the following definitions for "Enlightenment" as a noun:

[1]: the state of having knowledge or understanding : the act of giving someone knowledge or understanding

[2]: a movement of the 18th century that stressed the belief that science and logic give people more knowledge and understanding than tradition and religion

[3]Buddhism : a final spiritual state marked by the absence of desire or suffering

Source: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/enlightenment>

Given the above definitions, which one best defines your understanding of what it means to be enlightened? Well, maybe understand what "knowledge" means first and how "knowledge" is acquired to show you "understand" too. And, to "know" means "to be aware of the truth or factuality of : be convinced or certain of". Source: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/know> And, "knowledge" means "the circumstance or condition of apprehending truth or fact through reasoning : cognition AND the sum of what is known : the body of truth, information, and principles acquired by humankind". Source: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/knowledge> And, "understanding" means "the power of comprehending AND the power to make experience intelligible by applying concepts and categories." Source: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/understanding> So, with the first definition provided above you see enlightenment means to have studied and experienced a lot in a manner that has enriched your understanding of the body of truth, information, and principles acquired by humankind. So, the more idiotic, unlearned, moronic, and poorly informed you are, de facto, the less enlightened and further from enlightenment.

Now, with the second it references the Age of Enlightenment which focused on science and logic as paths to the Absolute Truth (one of the many names of GOD) rather than hypocritical oppressive regimes whether political or religious in nature. So, with the first definition reinforces the notion that enlightenment involves learning and proof of enlightenment can be shown by sharing knowledge and verified through fact-checking to make sure you avoid charlatans, frauds, and other oppressive criminal types.

The third definition involves you no longer desiring anything in the material world and therefore having no suffering tied to said desire. However, many feel that would be like dying. In Buddhism, "Life is suffering" and promises a blissful afterlife when you die and leave the material world if you practice Truth and Virtue to perfection before you die. Source: http://www.buddhanet.net/cbp1_f6.htm So, if you are no longer capable of suffering, you are no longer alive. Compassion and empathy are big components of Buddhism and so if you are pained by the suffering of others at all, then, you suffer as long as anyone is suffering. And, if you've met any Tibetan Buddhists and understand

their struggle for religious freedom, then you know they suffer too but are extremely virtuous in continuing to lead by example per their faith in non-violence.

So, if you are ignorant and don't know the references made by people more educated than you or who are better informed as a result of our due diligence, don't call us crazy because you are stupid or unenlightened. And, if you go to retreats with other stupid narcissists where you are all equally stupid and just enjoy each other's silent stupidity while music plays and you stretch and breathe on mats like toddlers (when you are adults), please don't call that enlightenment as it isn't even close to what the Buddhists call it you bastardizing whores.

And, if you start a cult where you claim you invented "orgasmic breathing" and call it a "womb awakening" first ever of it's kind while you teach other women to fake orgasms like you do, maybe you all deserve to be taken for a ride and I and others should just laugh at your folly rather than find it disturbing and a threat to public health and safety. But, the practice referenced on the sly was banned in Colorado after children died. So, I'm pretty certain exposing that one as a threat to public health and safety is warranted.

And, if you are smart enough that you simply enjoyed the definitions and thought, "I'm pretty enlightened myself. I study both formally and independently," then I know you understand why I wrote this and that it's intended to be both humorous and helpful.

For those who think imagining is the way to enlightenment, please consider how you learned anything ever and whether or not simply imagining ever really manifested as something without your action or effort in the material world. Do you know the word "Pseudomonas"? Do you think I made it up? I assure you I did not. It's a type of bacteria that can result in infection. But, that word is real and I didn't imagine it even if you've never heard of it. So, there's lots to know right here and right now and stuff you can help find out that is already being investigated, researched, or perhaps pursued in some way. And, that's all there is to know for sure and everything else is imagination, abstract, or nothing but potential. You are the one with potential to do something here and now to make a difference by first becoming enlightened on any topic beyond how to stretch and yawn. We all had that covered before we learned to crawl. It's not impressive.

And, if you don't go beyond "what if" when wondering if you can build a better flying machine, then you are not an aerospace engineer and have not studied and no one is interested unless you are still a child who is considering becoming an aerospace engineer and asking for learning materials to encourage you towards that future. But, if you don't want to learn and just want to play "what if" and imagine it believing if you wish and "envision" it in your mind it will happen without any actual effort or study on your part, then you are either developmentally disabled, a delusional narcissist, or in real need of a reality check from COPE Ministries or one of our many honorary proselytizers. WAKE UP!

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