

## SURRENDER

The following is an abstract of Ram Dass' Prophets Conference ~ Monterey presentation.

“Surrender” is a word that carries very negative images for us here in the West. It is a red flag to a “Type A” culture like ours. And yet “surrender” is a word that is widely used in descriptions of the spiritual journey, so it becomes important for us to understand its implications. For example, my own sadhana (spiritual practice) is called “Guru Kripa,” which means that I surrender to the Grace of my Guru. That’s the core of my practice. However, my surrender is not to the fellow with a blanket whom I once knew in India; my surrender is not to the man, but to the God *in* the man. By exploring subtleties like these about the nature of “surrender,” we are able to enter more deeply into an understanding of the spiritual meaning of the practice.

In our time together at the Prophets Conference, we will examine this practice of surrender. We will look at what it means to surrender, and who it is that surrenders, and to what we surrender. We’ll talk about various practices, like devotion, that help us surrender. And we’ll talk about the things that stand in the way of our surrendering. We will take as our framework the perspective laid out in the *Bhagavad Gita*, the path called karma yoga. The Gita outlines a path by which our lives become our sadhana through the dedication of each of our acts to God. That is, through surrender, our daily actions become our spiritual practice. And we will ask how we can begin to develop that perspective in our own lives how we can start to surrender the perceptual vantage point of our Egos to the vantage point of our Souls.

### COMMENT FROM THE COWBOY:

YUP, IN THE ABOVE THERE A LOT OF UNFATHOMABLE TERMS, THAT WHEN FULLY UNDERSTOOD ARE SUPPOSED TO LEAD TO ENLIGHTENMENT THE PROCESS OF SURRENDER IN PARTICULAR. UNFORTUNATELY, AN UNDERSTANDING OF THIS PROCESS IS HARD TO COME BY WHEN THEY USE FOREIGN WORDS. SO, WE’LL SEE IF WE CAN SIMPLIFY IT A LITTLE:

THE SURRENDER THING MEANS TO SURRENDER TO GOD, WHICH IS WHAT THE WORD MOSLEM IS LITERALLY TRANSLATED AS MEANING. IT IS FAIRLY OBVIOUS THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE MISSING THE MARK BADLY!!! SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> BEING THE MOST GLARING CASE IN POINT.

BUT, THIS SURRENDER THING IS A VERY REAL PART AND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF ENLIGHTENMENT. ONCE ONE SURRENDERS ALL OF THE DEFINITIONS OR LABELS OF THINGS AND SEES ONLY GOD IN ALL THINGS, THEN YOU ARE VIRTUALLY ENLIGHTENED. AND, YOU HAVE TO FIRST SEE THE GOD WITHIN YOURSELF BEFORE YOU CAN SEE THAT GOD IS EVERYWHERE ALL THE TIME – STANDARD METAPHYSICAL FARE.

NOW, LET’S APPLY 2-D AND 3-D TO THIS SURRENDER THING.

