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Notes on Liberation

1. So long as man takes a positive or affirmative attitude toward the world his consciousness lies outside the circle of Liberation.
2. The pre-condition of Liberation is world-denial.
3. Where there is hope there is no Liberation, for hope implies a dependence of consciousness upon conditions and, especially, an orientation towards the future. This is one form of attachment.
4. Man becomes Liberated only when all contents of consciousness cease to have value

No doubt, from the standpoint of the man who is positively oriented to the world of experience the requirements of Liberated Consciousness appear to involve a pessimistic attitude. But it is pessimistic only in the sense that we might call a man pessimistic who saw no hope for success for one who sought to drink up the whole of the ocean. As we grow in knowledge we come to know that many of our ill-considered childish endeavors are impossible. The child often desires incompatible experiences at the same time. Simple desire is ignorant of the law of necessity. But growth of wisdom brings knowledge of this necessity and so must judge many wished-for complexes as impossible. Thus there is always a pessimistic element connected with real Wisdom. But the presence of such a pessimistic element by no means implies that the total view of Wisdom is pessimistic. Wisdom also perceives doors to possibilities that are hidden to the more foolish consciousness. And if Wisdom can point to possibilities of far greater satisfaction than anything hoped for in the directions which Wisdom judged impossible, then the total value of that Wisdom must be judged as optimistic. Transcendental Wisdom

certainly does point the way to such superior values
and thus It does afford a view that must be judged
optimistic in the very highest sense.

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