

# Process

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One of the challenges that I've noticed we have regarding self-development, and just about everything else in life, whether it be esoteric or exoteric, is how we consistently fail to understand everything is a process. Owing to our addiction to imagination, which satisfies every part of the outer man, we are in the unfortunate position of being able to believe something that isn't true. Because what has a front has a back we can also believe that something that is not, is. Put in more experiential terms, we expect things to be one way when they are another way and we expect that things *could* be some other way even when we recognize they are not the way we would like them to be. Manifest life, and all that goes to make it, is a process. A process follows heaven's first law. Heaven's first law is order. Esoteric literature puts it this way: *The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head* (Mark 4:28). We would consider it insane to put apples, dough, sugar and cinnamon in a pie pan, put it in the oven and expect a lemon meringue pie. Yet we consistently expect the oven of the world to pop out what we haven't put into it, and we expect it right now, all at once.

*A Beloved Master has said, The time factor is a necessity. No tree grows in a moment or in a day. Seeds should be sown. They should be fed by natural forces, air, water, and earth, then they will grow, sprout forth into saplings. Then, if you still go on giving food to them, they will grow into trees; a few seeds will give you hundreds of trees.*

The kinds of seeds we plant determine the kinds of trees that will grow. In our ignorance we plant seeds that bring us nothing but misery and then curse the plants that grow from those seeds. We curse the earth and the sky for giving us what we don't want, but rather, what we have planted in our ignorance. Eventually, if we wish it, we can see that we are at fault. Not the seeds or the earth or the sky or anyone else. It can be a long and often very painful process as we kick against the goads repeatedly. Even after we discover that the problem has been in us there is little relief. A new process begins as we plant different kinds of seeds. They take time to grow and all the old seeds we've planted don't simply stop growing. They too continue to grow and produce according to their kind. At this point so many despair, forgetting it's all part of the process and there's no getting around it. Patience is easier to develop when we acknowledge the process and allow for it.

Few understand. Anything. It's apparent in the way our lives are lived. It can't even be said in the way we live our lives because we are not living our lives. Life is living our lives and we're swept along in front of life. Only when we can stand behind ourselves and see ourselves as we are can we begin the process of sowing different seeds. Not once, but repeatedly. We must get behind this thing we call our self and stay behind it. Only from this internal position can we ever hope to stay in the process of transformation into a different kind of Being. The New Man that we could be if we would enter the process and patiently follow it. *First the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head.* May I remind you one more time that we can work?