

The Priceless Price

By Toni Petrinovich

"There's no such thing as a free lunch." How often have you heard that idea quoted to you when you believed something might be free?

I've got news for you. There is a free lunch (plus breakfast, dinner and snack). It is often referred to as **enlightenment** while I prefer to call it **freedom**.

You *are free* to be yourself, free to express yourself as human (Conscious Awareness in physical form), free to see yourself and be seen by others. **Whoops! Wait a minute.** Does this really feel like *freedom*? Or does it bring up inner alarms of fear, trepidation and dread? The virtual intimacy of these words is prescient of long-past damage control, i.e. conform and adapt, not unhampered, unbounded living as freedom.

"Okay," you say, "I'll bite. What's the price? There's always a cost. What is it this time?"

So, I'll admit it; *there is a price*. The cost of freedom is relinquishing the need to pay a price. Sometimes you call this grace or even the Grace of God. The definition ranges from "something given for nothing" to "something given that cannot be earned". How about changing all of that to **there is no need to earn anything at all**.

Now those of you reading this article that are immersed in the politically correct language of the spiritual New Age community will reshape these words into the "need for an energy exchange." I understand the concept. You give a service, you receive money in exchange. You sell a product and it is paid for through monetary means. This is the meaning of "energy exchange" which is a softer way of saying, "Please pay me for the energy I expended in creating this for you." **The freedom of enlightenment does not fall into this category.**

Often referred to as Nirvana, awareness of your divinely conscious state is naturally yours whether you are birthed into this dimension or live in a totally different form in another frequency altogether, seen or unseen. It doesn't matter where you are, you are still *You* and you are perpetually, infinitely a state of light.

What keeps you from being aware of this state? Your belief (impressed upon you by parents, church and state) that you are not – and you have bought this belief *hook, line and sinker* because it is easier to conform than to see yourself and be seen. Hence, the arising, overwhelming dread of this hallowed freedom.

So, let's play with this for a moment: Take a breath and consider – can you allow yourself to live in the freest form of you? Don't tell me you don't know how. You are the only one who *does* know – after all, the most liberal application of all of your aspects is known only *to* you, so you *are* the only one who can realize each and every one of them.

If you look within and find unworthiness, the interminable **less-than**, you are looking into the *face of the lie*. It is this prevarication that was planted within your mind by your parents upon your very first breath. (By the way, you can't blame them; they were simply passing on what had been given to them. If they had known better, they wouldn't have done it.) Your personal, internal lie is mirrored in the consensus fabrication existing all around you. So you conform and adapt (biologists and anthropologists call this *evolution*) to the agreed upon reality to fit in with the human agreement.

If we take an imaginary trip back to the good ole' Bible days (fiction at its best), we hear God stomping angrily through the Garden of Eden proclaiming, "By the sweat of your brow, you will toil the earth." Hey, this ain't no god of mine! He's got one mighty chip on his shoulder because I ate from the Tree of Knowledge. He wants to keep me dumb. I'll leave Eden under my own steam. Nobody needs to drive *me* out and order angels to guard the gate! I won't be back!

Think about it. It doesn't even make any sense. An almighty god creates a species and then punishes them for attempting to know what is going on. That sounds much more like: An egotistical mind creates slaves and wants to keep them that way ala the works of Zecharia Sitchin.

No. What has happened is that each of you, as an aspect of You, took up a form allowing you to forget what you are and play an earthly game of "hide and seek." You believe your enlightenment is hiding and you are seeking. And it is a game . . . and it is a lie.

Consider the moon rising over the canyon wall. Is there a price to pay for its emergence? What does it cost the moon? How much must you "dish out" to view a full, rising moon? Nothing; it is priceless. The infinite interplay of transmission and reception (masked as "give and take") is the natural order of this plane. You are a standing wave of transmission and reception, simultaneously, infinitely . . . with no price to pay for the transmission or the reception. It is your natural state.

So, going back to the value of enlightenment, the payment required to live as light:

The price tag is freedom . . . accepted by you not as a gift rather as the raw material of your being. The cost is the slashing of the bonds tying you ever-so-tightly to the prison of the lie existing all around you. Once you pay the priceless price, when you realize that living as conscious awareness is without value, you are free to be. You need only give up everything you believe. *It is all the lie.*

No one can do this for you. I can point the way, yet you must release yourself. And, I might add in closing, until you do, **you will seek endlessly for nothing.**