

Enlightenment: June 17, 2015

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Author's notes:

This was inspired by a statement in "Choices" (1984), Liv Ullmann, Knopf ISBN 0-394-539-53986-9

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" It makes me unhappy to realize that I will be fortunate is I never find what I'm looking for, since that way I can never stop seeking.

"

I got enlightened the other day.

I know this will come as a surprise to some of you. It's been a long time since I was actively seeking enlightenment.

And it happened just like that, and when I was eating a big Mac too.

I suddenly realised I had the answer to the meaning of life, the universe and everything, just like that and without any effort on my part too.

I'll have to admit I was a bit surprised myself. I've spent my whole life actively seeking truth, knowledge and enlightenment. I'd done yoga, meditation and been vegetarian. In earlier times I brushed my teeth and hair religiously, I prayed (religiously), and was polite to my betters and elders.

None of this had done a thing. A lifetime of searching for the Holy Grail and I'd come up short. There was nothing I could do. I had to admit defeat; I just gave up.

My life spiralled down from hope to despair. I could see no point in doing anything great with my life. I'd hoped to paint the next Mona Lisa, build the next Eiffel Tower, but without any meaning in life, I realised that there was no point. I allowed my awareness to contract. I watched lots of TV, Gilligan's Island reruns mostly and put on a lot of weight eating popcorn.

I did achieve some inner peace; rarely was my mind bothered by thoughts anymore.

Then just last week I got it. Yep. I was enlightened. After all the years I spent being vegetarian in order to advance my spiritual progress, you can imagine my surprise to find that it happened while I was eating, of all things, a big Mac.

Well of course I understand that you're all completely stunned and speechless and are sitting here right now on the edge of your seats, with bated breath, waiting to find out what it's all about,

Well wait no longer, I'm going to tell you all about it.

I'd been searching all this time and now suddenly I had all the answers; the answer to any question I wanted. The search was over. Now there was no more searching to do. With the search gone, there was no purpose to life anymore. There was nothing to do at all. At least before I became enlightened, I'd had hope, even if only for a little while. Now there was no point in doing anything; I already knew the answer. With the search over, I realised that life was over.

All I can do now is sit and wait out the decades till I leave this mortal coil. It's going to be hell. I don't know how I'm going to survive.

I already know that I'm going to be reincarnated as a yogi. All my devotees will be just like me; they'll practice their asanas dutifully, they'll meditate for hours, they'll eat vegetarian food, and not one of them will become enlightened. It's my karma. Having transcended my ego, I couldn't care less about the success of the efforts of these stupid people. Knowing they're all going to be reincarnated anyhow, helps raise the level of my dispassion.

I've gone back to watching Gilligan's Is reruns. Enlightenment is the worst thing that could ever have happened to me.
