Joseph.Dillard said:
@Peter Collins, Hi Peter. A nice comment! Thanks for sharing your perspective! You write, “Though I would not fully subscribe to your characterisation of political systems as necessarily immoral...” Perhaps I did not make myself clear. I am not of the opinion that all political systems are immoral, but it does seem to me that those which are based on “might makes right” are, because they match Kohlberg’s definition of pre-conventional morality, which is fundamentally all about the self and its needs. Those governments that provide for the general welfare and particularly for children, are moral in my estimation. This is the case for most European governments. I would also include the governments of Russia and China in that category, but I am fully aware that most Westerners, and particularly most Americans, would respond to that characterization with howls of protest and derision.

(21 hours ago)Peter Collins said:
Hello Joseph,

I agree with a great deal of what you say.

So far the integral approach has placed undue emphasis on individual development with respect mainly to cognitive development and a somewhat narrow interpretation of what spiritual enlightenment entails.

As you say, the collective dimensions of the quadrants have thereby been largely ignored with little direct focus on issues of social justice and the deeply amoral manner in which economic activity takes place.
Though I would not fully subscribe to your characterisation of political systems as necessarily immoral, a huge degree of hypocrisy and self-deception is often involved, with so many obvious evils in society never seriously addressed.
And I would be of the strong opinion that democracy, or what more accurately might be called the veneer of democracy is now being eroded quickly in the US and Europe (where one might have thought it was operating most strongly).

However, in a way, this has always been the case, with arguably far greater problems facing previous generations. At least we have now the prospect of enjoying a reasonable life span on Earth!
And the human desire to reach out and transcend, despite so much poverty, sickness and injustice in the past has always been present, especially in times of greatest difficulty.

True enlightenment does not properly imply seeing oneself as more spiritually advanced than others. This is the product of misleadingly viewing development as a progressive individual ascent to higher levels (which unfortunately Ken Wilber has done much to foster). Rather, where there is equal emphasis on the wider socio economic dimensions of society, one thereby descends back to be like everyone else.
So with true enlightenment, one sees oneself as no better than others but perhaps able to see with much greater clarity into the human condition with all its light and shadow.
Thus in my own Christian tradition it is accepted that the highest stage of the mystical life is not a withdrawal from life with all its concerns and sorrows, but for those who have attained the state of union to humble themselves (in a corresponding descent) so as to become the willing servants of their fellow human beings.

And to a greater or lesser extent the same stage exists as an invitation to us all though unfortunately not emphasised by the integral movement.

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