

Intuition: The Soul's Domain

by Reverend
Carol E. Parrish, Ph.D.

The incoming mental energy of the Aquarian age is pushing humanity to use wisely all the insights acquired in its evolutionary ascent. The prompting of our time is to move us along a continuum from intellect to intuition. The more we exercise powers of mind to experiment, the more we will find — rather rediscover — keys to the non-physical reality that is the true self. Step-by-step, we move experientially from intellect, as we have believed in it, to new realities we now intuit. We already have keys to unlock capabilities greater than we now use.

It is, of course, difficult to describe the indescribable. You probably agree: we must be really intuitive to fathom what intuition is. It is so beyond intellect. Words contain meanings that stretch beyond their ordinary definition, so we often see language describing intuition move into metaphor, a poetic approximation rather than a literal definition, and that is because intuition is the soul's domain where the language is symbolism.

It is valuable to try to identify what we mean by saying we are using our intuition. Some teachers encourage developing (more correctly, opening to) intuition; others are satisfied with calling it a rather vague way of knowing, affirming that some people seem to possess it more than others. And there are those who suggest we have it or we do not; that its presence may be due to the training gleaned from past incarnations more than anything in this life.

We commonly recognize intuition as a hunch, an inspiration or

source of creativity, a sensing, a basic instinct, a "gut reaction," an inner knowing without rational proof. While corporations use computers and data analysis procedures to reach objective decisions, executives study results and often proceed contrary to any objective decision, calling it "visceral override." Many of us act similarly when we know that we know but cannot say precisely how we arrived at this clear knowing.

Mouni Sadhu calls intuition "cognition without thinking," or beyond the rational thinking process of mind. Robert Assagioli says intuition is a "sense organ for discovering analogies and promoting creativity." Christmas Humphreys and Torkam Saraydarian see intuition as representing the wisdom of our "knower" of a higher plane, one of purer knowledge. As someone once said, "I know it with my knower." When we use the "eye of the soul," Alice Bailey writes, "it reveals... a world of subtler phenomena, the kingdom of God or the world of souls. Then the light of intuition pours in, bringing the power to recognize and rightly interpret and relate."

We can view this concept of *straight knowing* as a lightning flash, an illumination of cognitive mind by higher mind or by the soul. If we consider the astral the feeling body and each higher chakra more refined than the previous, we could say the highest level is where we *feel* contact with the essence of self, a mental knowing that feels exactly right: intuition. Thus, we may define intuition as "the faculty of spiritual knowledge reflected through emotions." We remember, behind emotion lives feeling, and behind intellect, knowing. Since intuition includes

both, it resounds with uncommon clarity.

Current interest in right-brain functioning has led to new ways of stimulating this awareness and processing. Creativity and the use of creative imagination are linked distinctly to this whole process of freeing us from limitations imposed by intellectual approaches. Those who appear to be more intuitive are better able to connect unrelated pieces of data into a meaningful whole. Creative people tend to have perceptual openness. Because of this, they are often more aware of various aspects of an event or situation or, intuitively attuned to wholeness.

Characteristics of an intuitive response distinguish it from cognitive thinking or feeling. It is immediate and direct, rather than deductive and progressive as in reasoning. It is synthesized and holistic, not made of different parts we assemble later. It presents itself simply as straight knowing: "This is so."

Intuition synthesizes, and a united heart and mind speak to a single-pointed reality. A powerful moment of truth dawns; it registers in consciousness, and we know. We say, we *feel*, and at the same time, *we know we know*.

Openness itself acts as a cup, or chalice, ready to catch the droplets that precipitate from the cloud of knowable things into the open mind. When distortion is minimal, these droplets, or insights, register more clearly upon the mind. People used to gathering information in this way learn the feeling that intuition imparts and often come to accept such impressions more readily than others more rationally inclined.

While sensitivity to our emotional level expedites this process, powerful emotion may block the flow of intuitive ideas and inspirations. Intense emotionalism creates barriers to subtle feelings and dominates our attention, thus preventing the open perspective necessary for