



*We can prepare the garden and have the teaching space ready,  
but you must walk through the door.*

Master Kuthumi

# MasterSpeak

Panel Discussions Among Spiritual Masters

March 2012

## Spiritual Enfranchisement

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## *Master Morya ...*

I have Master Kuthumi's permission to lead off on this one. We will talk about enfranchisement and what is enfranchised.

Why the term "enfranchisement" when we are speaking not of slavery, not of voting rights, but of religion? Now I would ask you to think about that.

I would ask you to think of what kind of slavery is developed on the spiritual and mental and emotional planes with the dogmas of the various teachings. And I exclude none. One becomes an emotional, mental, spiritual slave to a given concept, to a given set of ideas.

Why enfranchisement? Voting rights. Who gets to vote on what is the content of the dogma of these various thought systems, studies, religions? You see, for the most part, the founders and the drivers, the controllers, the teachers of these various approaches consider themselves to have an exclusive franchise.

Various religions consider themselves enfranchised, they consider that they have the only true, one and true, way. And I would say that this is not limited to the "mainstream," or even the offshoots of the mainstream.

The mystics are the same. Do they evolve? Do they interpret and continue to interpret the teachings from the heart, and evolve as life evolves, and reinforce the truths that apply, and discard or reinterpret those that no longer make sense? Doing so would bring new meaning to traditional truths whose luster has slipped with the flow of time.

So I would caution against your relationship to a given body of thought, a given teaching that binds you – and I will use that term – that binds you to it in the same way that foot binding was practiced at one time. That is why I chose the term enfranchisement.

We need at this time to free the Christ Conscious spirit within every single human being. That is difficult to do if they are indeed unthinkingly,

unfeelingly – by that I mean without connection to their own soul – closed to the discussions that are necessary in order to find the commonalities shared by all these schools of thought.

One must be open and searching to understand the common core, and to appreciate the common core, and to honor the common core, and respect the offshoots therefrom, the enhancements. Even then be wary. You must understand and appreciate what is the core, the common core, and what is the enhancement, and be willing to change this enhancement for that enhancement.

Be open rather than certain – so unflinchingly certain of your own perspective of truth. It is true for you until it is not true. That is a more flexible attitude. For there is a common core.

If we are going into music, there is a leitmotif. For humanity's spiritual maturing, there is a leitmotif of the teachings, and it is the same for all, if it is but discovered.

I would say there are but few basic truths. We are talking about a core of truth, a core of spiritual truth that is anchored in humanity's most ancient existence, a core that has been taught forward, moved forward. There is that core. *And no one owns the franchise.* No one.

No one school of thought, no one set of dogma has the whole truth. It is only in speaking to each other, it is only in an intelligent, heartfelt, loving, compassionate exchange of viewpoints, searching for the central core, that it is found. It is like mining for that mother lode vein. And it is there.

But very few people are willing to look, because looking for the mother lode spiritually means that one way or another, some of your heartfelt beliefs are going to be challenged. And I can guarantee, no matter where you start – no matter *where* you start – be it with my teachings or the teachings of any other Master who speaks through this vehicle, you will find a point that challenges your belief. And at that point, keep your mind open. Because if your mind is not open and your heart is not open and you are not listening to the Divine within or listening to your very own soul, you will miss the mother lode. You will miss it.

And you will walk away. Rather than with a joyous, inclusive spiritual truth, you will walk away with a handful of partial truths.

It is in talking to each other, it is in exploring one another's viewpoints that the mother lode is found.

That is all I have to say about enfranchisement.

Thank you very much,

Master Morya

## *Mother Mary ...*

Enfranchisement is a very tender topic. Because you see, one faith, one school of thought – it does not matter which it is, whether it is in the mainstream or out of the mainstream, whether it is mystic or traditional – there is a magnetism, a magnetism that draws people. And there is, in many instances, a certainty that brings a comfort level, and a touchstone, and what is assumed to be a solid platform upon which they may make their decisions and go through their lives.

Now this platform may be complete atheism. “There is no Divine Source. There is no Divine Plan. There is no . . . whatever.”

So when I speak of spiritual world views, I speak of everyone. Because one way or another, articulated or unarticulated, everyone has a basis, a spiritual basis upon which they build their decisions.

Some may tell you they are not spiritual. I would examine the basis on which they make their decisions about how they think of themselves and how they interact with their fellow citizens, other human beings upon this Earth, and how they interact with their environment. They may clutter the environment and they may stomp on their fellow citizens and they may prune themselves in their mirror and say they do not believe in God. I will not judge them, but I will tell them that they do have a spiritual world view, and their spiritual world view, at this particular point, in this particular incarnation, is that they are the center of the universe and that others do not matter.

I would advise you not to throw stones, because most people, most souls have one, two or several of those lives in their experience. No matter where you are, I will call the set of values upon which you base your interactions with self, others and environment, your spiritual view.

You may consider yourself to be personally enfranchised. That is fine. The point being that if one group is not talking to another group, if one group decides that their franchise is more valuable – is more ancient, is more this or is less that, more important, more useful – then let them be willing to

non-judgmentally share. Let them bring what they feel has value and openly listen to what someone else says, what another group says is the value that they bring.

Unless you, as a human race, decide that you are going to seek the commonalities and allow for differences branching from that common core, then your chances of finding heaven on Earth diminish. Your chances of finding peace on Earth diminish. Your chances of surviving the shift that is upon us diminish.

However, if and when you decide, as a human race, that you are going to seek the commonalities rather than cling to the defamation of all others, you will find yourselves on the path to spiritual maturity.

We speak of sharing and I would say that too many think of sharing food, they think of sharing their homes, they think of sharing their financial resources, they think of sharing their country's resources. But do they think of sharing their most valued beliefs – be they a conviction that the Divine is in everything, or the conviction that the Divine does not exist?

By sharing I do not mean thundering to say, "My way is the right way!" No. I mean the kind of sharing that one is likely to see after a disaster, where one family that salvages a blanket shares it with another. I speak of sharing that comes from the heart, sharing that comes from the belief that if we do this together, we will all be rather better off than if we each do it independently.

You can have your franchise, your groups can have their franchises, but it is the sharing at the spiritual level that is going to go a very long way in moving humanity forward. Not trying to convert anyone – simply sitting down and sharing until you find the commonalities and can lovingly tease each other about the differences, because you have found the core that binds you into One.

That is what I would say about enfranchisement.

Mother Mary

## *Master St. Germain ...*

Enfranchisement allows the power to choose, the power to voice an opinion and be heard, the power to vote. Now when it comes to spiritual enfranchisement, no matter where you are, sooner or later you run into spiritual institutions.

It does not matter if they are a local group that meets in the park, or whether they gather in the most prestigious mosque, the most prestigious temple, the most prestigious cathedral. Sooner or later, you bump into what is commonly called organized religion.

And groups, being groups, ask you to believe what they believe. And they ask you to do these things that they do. And the leader of this group has the power.

Spiritual enfranchisement is taking control of the decision-making process into your own heart. You have not only the ability and the right to search for that spark of God that lives inside of you, I would go so far as to say you have the responsibility to do so.

Now once you contact that spark of God within you and you are listening to that fragment of God that is uniquely you, that comes through your soul, then you may choose a spiritual or religious group to adhere to.

You may find a group that is close enough to your personal spirituality that you feel comfortable there, that there is enough overlap between what you believe and what this group is supporting, what this group is proposing, what this group is establishing as their principles of operation, that you say, "Yes, I can get along there and I can actively sit down and work with these people and know that my heart and their hearts are in essentially the same place. I get to vote about whether or not I attend or I do not attend. And I vote with my energy. I vote with my time. I vote with my financial support."

Spiritual enfranchisement – the power to vote, the power to be heard.

When a spiritual enfranchisement is nonexistent, that is when you cede to

another the authority to tell you who God is, what God wants, what your soul wishes you to do, what behaviors are appropriate, what behaviors are required, and what will happen to you if you do not conform.

Enfranchisement is inclusive. Enfranchisement, spiritual enfranchisement, is inclusive. I repeat myself, but this is worth noting. Enfranchisement is someone setting their feet on this particular path to God, let us call it the cobblestone path. Let us call this the cobblestone path to God, because that is what calls to them inside, that is what resonates through their being, and it is the cobblestone path. Enfranchisement is saying that's fine. You have the choice to choose the cobblestone path.

But you also have the choice to choose the packed-dirt path. Or the asphalt path. Or the brick path. Inclusiveness is saying, fine, we don't believe exactly the same thing. You may not even believe in God, even though you are living a moral and upright life when it comes to your relationship with Mother Earth, with other human beings, with the life that exists on Mother Earth. And inclusiveness says that's fine. We can be friends. You do not have to believe what I believe. And we can discuss what you believe, and what I believe, and it is all okay.

Spiritual enfranchisement is making an open declaration that whether you travel the packed-dirt path or the cobblestone path or the loose gravel path or the brick path, it does not matter. What matters is that you have touched that spark of God that lives inside of you and you are traveling the path. Your inner wisdom, your inner Godliness, your inner Christ Consciousness lays your path out before you.

Spiritual enfranchisement can be achieved by declaring it. You wake up and you say, "I can do this. It is my right to have this vote about which path I travel."

Spiritual enfranchisement can also be obtained if those who would claim authority, and those who have been claiming authority, can sit back and say, "We will agree on certain things and beyond that it is up to you, and you have the right to vote and you will get to 'heaven' the same way I will." *That* is spiritual enfranchisement. There is no exclusive path.

Now someone who prefers a packed-dirt path may feel quite uncomfortable

on a brick path. So this person, this individual, may decide, "I'm not going to go that way. I'm not going to attend those meetings." And that is just fine with everyone. No one from the brick path is going to say, "Tut-tut-tut. You are not going to get a spiritual reward. You must do it our way or there will be no reward." That is exclusivity and it is not spiritual enfranchisement.

There is only Oneness. I will repeat that. There is only Oneness.

And you can think of that as one God, or the universe, or a higher power. You can think of it any way you choose, but there is only Oneness. There is a web of interconnectedness that holds Creation together. You may call it whatever you want. If you want a scientific name for it, that's fine. If you want a spiritual name for it, that's fine.

You see, I believe one of your poets made a comment to the effect that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

Do not assume that spiritual enfranchisement is impossible. Nor should you assume that spiritual enfranchisement is unimportant. For you see, you are the one who must travel the road. Your soul, your spirit is the one that must walk the path you have chosen in this incarnation. And because you have chosen this path, it is your responsibility, as an incarnated being living your unique spark of the Divine Creator, it is your responsibility to put one foot in front of the other and move forward.

There is no magic shortcut. There is no magician standing at the side of the road saying, "Ah ha! I'll walk that road for you."

Just as in a more common definition of enfranchisement – the right to vote, the right to be heard – you must do the voting yourself. In spiritual enfranchisement, you travel that road yourself. Now the difference is, if you are voting, most places where you vote, you get to vote in private and then you turn your vote in.

When it comes to spiritual enfranchisement, you may make the decisions and you decide which way you are "voting." And then, you have more help than you could possibly know. You have guides on your side. You have angels willing to help you. You have elder brothers who have traveled their own path and reached a point where they turn and hold out a hand to those

who are coming still.

One way or another, you claim your own spiritual enfranchisement, but you are not alone. You have all this help. You have the God inside. You have your own soul. And you have the Divine Creator who set Creation in motion, for the Divine Creator, too, is out there – is in you, is outside of you – and is waiting for you to find the connection, and be of assistance, so long as that assistance furthers your spiritual path.

Love is unconditional. But the Divine Creator is not going to help you move backwards on your spiritual journey. So I hope that distinction is clear.

That is what I would say on spiritual enfranchisement. It is a rare gift. It is a gift. It is your birthright. But you must claim it.

God bless you all,

Master St. Germain

## *Master Hilarion ...*

There is an empowerment that we are talking about, and my colleagues would choose the term enfranchisement. I would say empowerment.

Spiritual empowerment. Let me play with the words. Empowerment of the spirit. The spirit. The shard of the Divine that lives within each one. And what is it that empowers that shard and what is it that prevents empowerment? There are many things. One is the vehicle itself.

The vehicle of incarnation. At some point, free will focuses inward and free will turns to that internal spark and recognizes the Divine, and recognizes the beauty, and recognizes the energy and the power waiting there, and seeks guidance from that internal power source, and seeks to let that internal power source, that internal spark of God, shine forth. This is a decision of free will.

At some point the free will turns and says, "Guide me. Guide me from the inside." That is empowering the spirit – spiritual empowerment. Turning inward to the spark of God, the Christ Consciousness within each and every one, and nurturing it, and allowing it to shine forth, emerge and be its own light within humanity. That is spiritual empowerment.

Free will that does not turn inward is, as it were, the self-contained hindrance to spiritual enfranchisement that must be overcome. And there is a plethora of external hindrances. These can come from society, that vague but important set of rules and expectations. The hindrance can come from personal contacts – family, friends, frowns, smiles. You say the right things, profess the right beliefs, behave in the proper manner, worship as dictated, as expected, as taught.

The hindrance can come from the institutions that profess to be based on the word of God, the institutions that profess there is no God, the institutions that profess this, that or the other thing. And by institution, I mean school of thought. I mean the religious hierarchies that exist, I mean the schools of thought that behave like religious hierarchies and would have the believers follow them and behave thus, and say thus, and believe thus.

Now, let us give due where due is appropriate. For many, I will say for many, what is taught at the very core of these schools of thought, of these religions, has indeed the potential to resonate with that spark that resides internally. The problem is getting through the outer layers of traditions that have grown up over time, and getting down to the core and recognizing the core when you get there.

For some parishioners, for some who are members within these schools of thought, the spark of God inside is so strong that even through the fog of the fringes, they resonate with the core, and they have the discernment to resonate with the core, and work with the core, and ignore the rest. They honor the extra trappings when necessary, but these do not impact their view of the world. Now that is spiritual enfranchisement. That is spiritual empowerment. They have the discernment to find and work with that which is a core truth.

So those are the two sources that I see for spiritual enfranchisement, and the two broad areas of hindrance to spiritual enfranchisement that must be overcome, that can be overcome, that are only overcome when there is a call from the soul within, the spark within, and there is a response from the vehicle that interfaces with the outer world, and that connection is made. At that point, the path of spiritual empowerment begins. The path of spiritual enfranchisement begins.

The call from inside the soul, the soul's call to the external vehicle, may go on for lifetimes before it is heard. In a given lifetime, it may go on for decades before it is heard. In a given lifetime, it may be heard at a very early age.

Empowerment comes about when that call is heard, and when the part of every incarnation that interfaces with the external world – commonly called the personality or the ego – responds. The call will be in the heart. The personality or the ego responds, and, of free will, makes a decision to listen and seek and look inside to hear that small voice.

Now, this newly found empowerment is not always spiritual in the nature of religion. This might be an industry magnate turning philanthropist. It might be a small business owner who is perhaps an atheist, but has a passion for fair business practices both to customers and employees, and has a passion

that becomes a light in the business community – with him all the while not believing in God.

But God is within. Listening to the God within becomes spiritual enfranchisement going forth under the umbrella of perhaps fairness, or perhaps sound business practices going forth under the guise of community.

The names may vary, but in truth, this behavior is the manifestation of a call from inside and a free will response from without. And the individual becomes guided by the soul within.

We shall have to talk about guides.

We do try to encourage those we guide to listen to us, because we have agreements with their soul that we will work with them to help them keep their soul intents. So we may be whispering in their ear. But we can whisper from now until the end of all time, and unless the one we guide hears and begins to look *inside*, nothing will happen. We can only encourage.

The listening and the response to the soul inside is a free will decision made by the individual. And that is the first step, as I said, to spiritual empowerment, to spiritual enfranchisement. That is what I wish to say.

Thank you very much.

My blessings upon you all.

Master Hilarion

## *Lord Tabor ...*

I draw my lessons from the devas in the mountains, and I am thinking what lesson I find there about enfranchisement. As I have said in my biography, I have spent many human lives hermit-like. So I would like to comment on enfranchisement of the hermit.

We have many, many studies and articles about human communities and living in a community. Those studies give us rules like the ones the Master Hilarion referenced – rules of community. I, however, would speak of the hermit.

Now we are playing with words, for when one says “hermit,” it connotes solitude from other human beings, but this solitude may be a very deep spiritual enfranchisement. In the mountains that are my love and my home, the “community” the hermit lives in is one that you would call nature.

And I will tell you that when you choose that community, you discover rules for the spirituality of nature. They are ecology driven. They are season driven, weather driven. But they are rules, and you are at great risk if you ignore too many of them, or try and recreate them to suit yourself.

Likewise, you will find great peace if you have a “dialog” with nature – a dialog that can lead you to some of the core truths Master Morya spoke of when he began this topic. Nature is, perhaps, a more open and willing participant in this search for core truths than are those who are convinced that their school of thought or their organized religion holds the franchise.

There is a respect that comes with an awareness of the flow of life in the environment in which you live – an awareness that you can fight, or join with joy and learn what you can bend and what you cannot. So your human community may have – oh, I would just say general intolerance for your behavior if you up and leave.

But turn that around. Suppose your spiritual self-enfranchisement makes you a hermit in the middle of a busy city. Are you a hermit by choice? Or are you a self-made hermit for lack of being willing to follow some of the rules?

All these things are quite obviously relative, but this enfranchisement that you take upon yourself is – as with the seasons – a cyclic process that works like a feedback loop in a system. Without rain, there is drought. In drought there is fire, that sort of thing. When you bend too many “rules,” people begin to ostracize you and you receive feedback based on your behavior.

It requires wisdom to know if you are going against the rules of the human community and civilization for a specific purpose, or for running away.

So when you decide that you are going to be spiritually enfranchised and you put down your stake, as it were, or draw your line or whatever it is you do when you decide that you are to be enfranchised, know your motivation. Know why.

Be aware enough to know what these rules are and how they apply to you. Know why you are keeping them or why you are enfranchising yourself to leave. And I would advise you to do either with the good of humanity in mind, for we are One.

And when you make these decisions, while you make them for yourself, and whether your choice is to live your life as a hermit or as a social butterfly, humanity will benefit if the motivation for your decision comes from your soul, comes from that inner wisdom which your soul imparts.

Thank you,

Lord Tabor

## *Venetian Master ...*

The topic we are discussing is spiritual enfranchisement. This begs the question of what is spiritual. And I would offer you the definition that everything you do, every decision you make, in the long run, is spiritual. For each incarnated soul is indeed a spark of God.

Admittedly, some sparks are very deeply hidden. But I promise you, deep inside every incarnate soul there is a spark of God. How this manifests into the world varies, for some of these sparks live in such conditions that they are not expressed.

But grant me my tenet that we are all sparks of God and let us move on. We are all children of God, and therefore everything we do is, in one regard, spirituality – our personal spirituality.

Now if you are being taught art and you are being taught how to draw, and you are being taught the value of shape and line and perspective, and you are being taught the value of shadow and light and center of focus – your art teacher comes to you with “rules,” for your teacher has a franchise on your culture’s approved way of creating art.

You do not mix oil and acrylic in the same work. You do not mix watercolor and oil in the same work. You *must* do certain things. You must prepare your canvas thus. You must finish your canvas thus.

Now there may be wisdom in some of these “rules,” or there may be restriction. This kind of brush is most effective for this kind work; this kind of brush should never be used. Or, if you are into modern art, this way of spattering your paint across the canvas is better than that way of spattering your paint across the canvas.

Some of these “rules” will enrich your experience and enable you to be your creative, expressive self, which is the equivalent of expressing yourself spiritually in my analogy. And some of these “rules” will limit you to the point where you give up art.

Now I will leave my analogy, for the same enabling or discouragement is true of schools of thought – be they philosophical outlooks on life, be they ethical considerations of which forms of international etiquette are appropriate and which are not, or be they philosophical outlooks on the economy. Some of these rules handed down from those who hold a franchise will help you in your spiritual growth. Others will not.

If I may quote one of my colleagues who was quoting a much older text, “Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you.” And I apologize if that is not quoted exactly, but this is an extremely ancient approach to human life in a community.

You see, that is the interesting part about deciding which “rules” are appropriate and which are not. You must inevitably take responsibility for the decision you have made and the path you have created with that decision.

I would have you take a look at the various franchises which you adhere to de facto – be aware, be alert to the many franchises that govern your behavior. Evaluate which are life-giving to the planet, to humanity, and which are stifling and detrimental to the good of the One and to the whole.

These are franchises of your spirituality. These are franchises of your mind. These are franchises that hold your emotions. It may be a passion to support your country – nationalism. It may be a passion to accumulate wealth. It may be a passion to find food for your children or your aging parents. How you go about these activities, what your culture tells you is acceptable behavior – all these are franchises. And I would like to focus in on the economic franchises of Planet Earth.

I will say franchises, for there are several, and the economic franchises that exist now have held human minds for quite some time . . . and they are not working.

The capitalist-Wall-Street-stock-market economic system has a franchise on the minds and behavior of a great many people. A great many people are convinced that the economic system they live under is the only way, or the best way to bring value exchange into people's lives, for money is value exchange. These systems have a franchise.

What, then, is enfranchisement? That would be when those who stop to examine what this franchise is presenting to them as the truth – the best way to run a neighborhood business, or an entire country, or a world economy – when those who examine realize that these “truths,” these “rules,” hold a franchise on their minds.

Spiritual enfranchisement. If, as I stated, spirituality is the way you live your life, then spiritual enfranchisement becomes *freeing* yourself from a franchise that holds your mind, a franchise that is not working.

And how do I know the economic franchises are not working? Because there are people starving. The resources of the planet that gives you life are not being shared. There is a better way.

To find a better way, I challenge those who do have the ability, and who live in circumstances where they can question the world's economic systems, to sit up, take notice, and question. Enfranchise yourself.

I say again, the way you live your life is spirituality, and your spirituality is the way you interact with your fellow beings. That includes attending temple, mosque, church. That includes *not* attending temple, mosque, church. Your spirituality is paying your bills, going to work, looking for a job. All of this is your spirituality. But I will stick with the economy.

The economic system under which you live very likely has a franchise on your mind, on your outlook, on your behavior, on your decision-making, on your assumptions about the way the world works.

If that economic system that holds the franchise of your worldview does not include balancing between wealthy nations and impoverished nations, if it does not include a sharing of Earth's resources, then I would say it is time that you consider examining this franchise that has a hold on you.

That, my friends, is spiritual enfranchisement. It is taking unto yourself the power to say, “No. There is a better way.” And there are those out there who are showing you a better way economically. Take a look at the Global Commons. Take a deep look at the Global Commons.

I would say to you that spiritual enfranchisement in the economic realm is *freeing* yourself from the idea that what is, and has been, the world economic system – with its wealthy, ultra-wealthy, impoverished and starving – is the best way to go, the best way to run a planet. Because it is not the best way.

Your economic franchise keeps this image alive.

So I would say look to your spiritual enfranchisement. Take a look at the Global Commons and see what that has to offer you. Claim your spiritual enfranchisement on the economic front and help create a better, more balanced economic system for the planet. That would be my advice to you.

That is my view of a spiritual enfranchisement that will improve the planet on which you live, that will make you citizens of the One and create a better future for the generations to come.

Enfranchisement takes great faith, and great courage. Do not doubt. But I would say to you, be of great faith and be of great courage.

When you realize what is beneficial for the life of the whole, for the balance of the One, find the courage, find the strength within, and seek spiritual enfranchisement for yourself – for the benefit of the One . . . for the sustenance of Planet Earth.

Thank you,

The Venetian Master<sup>\*</sup>

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*\* MasterSpeak provides members of the Spiritual Hierarchy a forum for discussion. While they each have their own perspective, they never fail to work together for the benefit of humanity. For more information about MasterSpeak, visit [WeSeekToServe.com](http://WeSeekToServe.com). ©Sharon K. Richards*