

Hold up
your hands
before
your eyes.
You are
looking
at
the
hands
of
God.



Rabbi Lawrence Kushner

What makes this mystical insight so difficult to swallow? Is our mystic really telling us that we are God? In the privacy of the mind, most of us will wonder how that could possibly be. You know your imperfections are many - including envy, jealousy, greed, and often, hatred. You know you cling to certain ideas as being right and other ideas being wrong. You can even feel aggressive when others don't agree with you.

These behaviors makes the notion of *being* God seem dubious, at best. In fact, it's rather an outrageous statement. Furthermore, if it did turn out to be accurate for some folks, you know you obviously wouldn't be one of them. Too many faults, problems and unending limitations!

Yet, when you use your mystical eyes (they really are just a blink away from normal perception), God can be seen everywhere, clearly hiding out in every shape and form imaginable. It can be quite a challenge to imagine one of those shapes and forms actually being you! It's one thing to say you're a child of God, or in service to God; but another to say that you *are* God.

This brings us to what all mystics say is the essential problem. And that is the very human notion that you are separate from God. This means you are different from God - that you have to travel some distance to meet God - that you have to behave in a certain way to be accepted by God.

Now here's the confusion: When you see with your mystical eyes that you and God are one and the same, you would think these other notions would disappear. And yet, they don't.

*'I am one with God and I'm still imperfect? Something is wrong.
If I were one with God, my imperfections would be gone.'*

To make sense of this seeming incongruity, you must enter the realm of paradox - where two things that cannot exist together *logically*, in fact, do so!

What a mystery! Looking closely, you see that existence is *not* logical. Yet, your mind demands logic. What to do with this conundrum?

By gracing your mind with the gift of paradoxical perception, it can perceive you as being *both* imperfect as a human being *and* perfect as a divine being where God is living in the form of you. It's not logical. But existentially, it is so.

Using your mystical eyes opens the door to the paradoxical dimension of your Being. And you see, perhaps for the first time, that you can truly relax with your imperfection, for it is complimentary to your perfection. Together, these two dimensions of your Being create the perfect harmony of paradoxical Oneness. This makes you a unique expression of *both* humanity *and* divinity at the same time.

Until next month when another Reflection will appear, may you perceive the fragrance of your divine perfection surrounding the challenges of your human imperfection. And may your mystical eyes show you the inseparability of the two and bring you many moments of peace.

Ragini