

## MEDITATION 16



**A**N IMPORTANT PART OF THE LIFE OF many monks is study. In a stereotypical image, the monk is reading in silence in a library. Historians associate monasticism with reading, writing, and publishing. Like everything else in modern life, learning is generally considered a secular pursuit, but the monks show us that study can be a spiritual practice.

We study to get diplomas and degrees and certifications, but imagine a life devoted to study for no other purpose than to be educated. Being educated is not the same as being informed or trained. Education is an "education," a drawing out of one's own genius, nature, and heart. The manifestation of one's essence, the unfolding of one's capacities, the revelation of one's heretofore hidden possibilities—these are the goals of study from the point of view of the person. From another side, study amplifies the speech and song of the world so that it's more palpably present.

Education in soul leads to the enchantment of the world and the attunement of self.