

## Some Facts About Time

By A. Ramana

What is time? Does time in fact really exist? Of course, clock time, as a matter of appearance, certainly exists. That is, it undoubtedly does exist in the time zone in which one lives, or it is an apparent fact. Still, paradoxically, it is not the same outside one's present time zone; for, if you telephone a friend who lives in another country and ask what time it is, he could most likely answer with a different time than what appears on your clock. Here, it can be seen that time is in fact only a matter of agreement. It appears to be different, or not the same to everyone.

In further consideration, if you make an appointment with a friend to have lunch, clock time as a structural means for functioning is both important and necessary, since the time you agree to meet is a fact to be honored in both of your worlds of apparent reality. In addition, time appears very real when you see someone from your college days you haven't seen again for 30 or 40 years. They will appear very different from what they once looked like, especially if you still hold in mind your college day image of them; and, you also will appear very different to them.

Psychologically, time does not exist. For example, past and future are entirely conceptual; they are only thoughts in your head occurring in the present moment. Past and future exist only when you remember or anticipate them, and you can do this only in this present moment.

This means, time is not an objective reality existing "outside" in an apparently solid time-space world, it is entirely subjective, being solely a creation in the mind, made by the mind. In fact, even the world is a product of the mind that appears only along with our mind's image of it.

The one substantial reality is the present moment, or this Instant, which in truth is the presence of pure Awareness; only IT is real; and, what is now happening in it is *only* what's so.

On the surface of this Instant, this present moment – which is ever appearing like the screen in a cinema – all that's happening seemingly appears as though occurring in time-space. And, the scene changes constantly so we don't see the underlying Presence, the One Reality. If we were not identified with the objects, or the events and occurrences themselves, and with the ego and body-mind in which all is appearing as really happening – which gives the false sense of it all having solid, objective physical reality – we would see the underlying truth that all is occurring in this present moment on the "screen" of pure Awareness. And, it would be seen that this present moment is not occurring again and again like a train of new present moments, but that there is only one present moment, which is this Instant that is infinitely Here and eternally Now.

Pure Awareness is That *on* or *in* which all and everything in apparent time-space occurs. It is the Source, the true Self, the One Supreme Being appearing as the character roles that we each are typecast to play – Its true nature however being pure existence, pure consciousness, and pure bliss, or real happiness. The apparent individual roles are what seem to have different or unusual characteristics.

This means that if we are unhappy, it's simply because we are ignorantly identifying with the body-mind, or character role, as being our "self," and thus seeking happiness in the world of time and space and its apparent events. But, there is no happiness in this or any world of time-space. True happiness is ever abiding in us, it being our true Self, and our inner nature. We must take or *give* true happiness *to* our world, *to* our character role, *not* derive happiness from it or for it.

**AHAM Meditation Retreat and Spiritual Training Center**

**Asheboro, NC 27205**

**Web site: [www.aham.com](http://www.aham.com)**

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