

The Foolish Being's Pocket Book Guide to Personal Enlightenment
Copyright, 12-1-06, 2006
By Brett Paufler
1000 words

{As I start to edit this on 2020-05-21, there are 2,600 words in total. So, who knows where those extra ones came from? © Brett Paufler}

If you need someone to explain to you what Buddhism is, you're probably not practicing it. If you need someone to tell you what Enlightenment is, you're probably not enlightened. Read between the lines, the defining limit is your own personal need.

The punishment for being a base being is having a body.
The reward for being an enlightening being is having a body.

When there is nothing else to say
Nothing to read
Nothing to write
Then one is enlightened

Love is nothing more than allowing someone the freedom to be wrong. Love yourself first. Dare to be wrong. Aspire to stupidity.

All you have is this moment.
This is heaven.
This is hell.
This is purgatory.
This is bliss.
You decide moment by moment.

The past is an illusion.
The future is a dream.
Right now is all you get.

You are bound in a world where facts are misleading; truth is overrated, and illusions are the only thing real. Accept that you can never strip away the final illusion. The whole thing is nothing but smoke and mirrors anyway. Enjoy the show. Enjoy the show you want to see.

No one but you cares if you are enlightened.
No one but you will know if you are enlightened.
No one but you can help you become enlightened.

Being enlightened is as easy as saying, "I'm enlightened," and then doing whatever it is that an enlightened being does, which will probably be whatever you do, seeing as how you are an enlightened being and all.

I'm pretty sure I made at least one mistake in here. You should go back and cross out my mistakes and write what I should have said. Then you really will have *The Foolish Being's Pocket Book Guide to Personal Enlightenment*.

Buddhism Explained
By Brett Paufler
Copyright, 12-5-06

Buddhism is the practice of a simple idea.

This idea is called the Four Noble Truths.

Truth 1 - You want to be happy

Truth 2 - You would be happier if you let go of your unhappiness

Truth 3 - Things will still happen, which tend to make happiness difficult

Truth 4 - You can diminish these things (and/or their effects) by practicing the Eight Fold Path.

The Eight Fold Path

Action 1 - Control Your Inputs - Eat Right

Action 2 - Control Your Inputs - Sleep Right

Action 3 - Control Your Inputs - Consume Less

Action 4 - Control Your Inputs - Control Your Mental Landscape

Action 5 - Control Your Outputs - Less is More

Action 6 - Control Your Outputs - Create Your Own Reality

Action 7 - Control Your Outputs - Love Others

Action 8 - Control Your Outputs - Love Yourself

Do this and you are doing all that you can.

Welcome to reality.

GigglesWorth Responds
12-8-06, Copyright, Brett Paufler

This manuscript has been made possible by a generous grant from the *GigglesWorth General Store, Expedition Outfitters, and Enlightenment Retreat Center*.

The views expressed in this book do not express the views of Mr. GigglesWorth himself. Though he acknowledges that one cannot put a price tag on enlightenment, he's fairly certain it costs several hundred thousand dollars.

Anyone interested in attaining enlightenment the old fashioned way through three-day retreats while listening to a guru of obscure origins and radical thought, should contact the *GigglesWorth Foundation*. Don't forget to include a generous donation.

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Mr. GigglesWorth Rants #1

In which a professional writing standard is discussed in relation to the quantity of words, vis a vis the dollar amount one can charge for the product, and so on and so forth, ad infinitum, etc, etc, etc...

The first problem with the foregoing manuscript is that it is too short. It's almost as if the author does not realize that he is getting paid by the word. It's not that hard. Pounding out line after line of pure drivel is the author's stock and trade. How can you sell a book on enlightenment for \$24.95 with the optional gold lettered hardbound editions for \$79.95 if it doesn't have at least 10,000 words? 25,000 would be nice and let's face it, 100,000 would be ideal. In a 100,000 words you can bury even the slightest glimmer of inspiration under the weight of all those words.

Where was I? See, that's a writer's stock in trade. You say stuff like, "Where was I?" That's three words. Useless, meaningless, utterly wasteful of both the reader's and writer's time, but there it is. Three words, no make that fifteen words now, closer to the magic goal. It is a well established fact of the publishing world that a 1000 word pamphlet is not capable of describing enlightenment, much less sell for \$84.52.

But I digress. As if the entire point of writing a 100,000 word epic on the concept of being happy wasn't in itself an elaborate digression. It reminds me of a story. A useful story, full of wit and wisdom and words, precious page filling words...

But where was I? See that? That's how a professional does it. It could have been three words, but no, it's now four words, but where was I?

Yes, I was going to tell you this relevant story of a man who was down on his luck, who was down to his last dollar. This man who had tried to do the right thing all through his life was down on his luck. He was tired, he was hungry, and he was thirsty. He showed up at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* (and if you think for a second at five cents a word I'm going to abbreviate that name, you're just being delusional).

This guy, down on his luck, with only a dollar in his pocket. Well, that wasn't going to buy much at my store. I don't know if you've seen the prices, but I recommend packing at least \$10,000 if you're going to browse. Anyhow, he only had a buck, so nothing was going to happen about that tired and hungry stuff, he was just going to have to deal with it, but the thirst part. Wouldn't you know it? We were having a special that day on water, just a dollar a glass (no refills). He was so delirious he didn't recognize a bargain when he saw one. He hemmed. He hawed. He bumped up the word count. But finally, he slapped his dollar down with conviction and said, "I'll take it."

Well, that's what we like to hear at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters*. Oh, while I mention the name again, now would be a good time to mention we offer spiritual retreats. Just \$25,000 for a three day two night extravaganza, which excludes food, tax, and gratuity, but it does include an individual hour long session with the spiritual master himself, yours truly, Mr. GigglesWorth. And, don't think I'm going to short change you. At \$25,000 you'll have my complete and undivided attention for at least an hour. Unlike this guy who just bought some water.

I mean, how long does it take to drink a glass of water? He was going on about how this was the greatest water he'd ever drunk. How it had been so long since a drop of the "Aqua Royal," that's what he called it, since the "Aqua Royal" had graced his throat. He said it tasted just like wine.

I guess you can guess who that man was. Jesus. That's right Jesus. Not Jesus of Nazareth mind you. Now, wouldn't that be a marketing coup. Jesus of Nazareth turned water into wine at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters*, but it wasn't that Jesus. It was Jesus Ramirez, who went on to start his own landscaping business. And you know what he does every morning? He fills up a five gallon jug of ice water and puts it on the back of his truck. Then whenever one of his tired, hungry, or thirsty workers comes to get a drink he charges them a dollar.

I'm so proud of him, I could just cry.

See that wasn't so hard, we are almost up to the magic 1000 words; that's more words than in the rest of the book! So don't believe what they tell you, racking up the word count isn't that hard. All it takes is patience, diligence, and a willingness to share an exciting case history or two.

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Mr. GigglesWorth Rants #2

In which, in a clear and concise manner, Guru Swami Honorable Teacher Mr. GigglesWorth reveals the Four Noble Truths.

I hope we have established that the foregoing book isn't long enough. It's like the author didn't even try. Pounding out the word count isn't hard, but I'm just repeating myself, which is deliberate and edificational because repetition is the key to learning.

The problem with the Four Noble Truths is that they don't address money. Why could Jesus only afford water and not wine in the first place? Lack of money.

Mr. GigglesWorth's The Four Noble Truths About Money

Truth 1 - You need money to make purchases at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters*. We don't accept credit cards and we don't extend credit so don't even ask.

Truth 2 - After you make a purchase at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* you won't have any money left, or maybe you're not really done shopping yet, because...

Truth 3 - Spending money anywhere else but at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* is bad, evil really. It cuts into my profits and can't be recouped. So ask yourself the next time you're making a purchase elsewhere, "Is this bowl of rice necessary? Do I really need this blood transfusion? Wouldn't I rather get a souvenir shot glass from *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters*?"

Truth 4 - The more you spend at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* the happier I will be.

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Mr. GigglesWorth Rants #3

As a direct consequence of the Fourth Noble truth, Swami Guru President, Founder, and Chief CEO of GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters, Mr. GigglesWorth relates the traditional Eightfold Path to modern readers.

Happiness. Isn't that what it's all about?

Clearly your goal should be to spend all your money at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters*. And, here it pains me to say, that author guy (i.e. Brett Paufler) might be on to something. But that's only because the traditional view of the Eightfold Path is so ambiguous, it's just begging to be rewritten by a true seer.

The Traditional Eightfold Path to enlightening your pockets at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters*

Right View - To have a high opinion of *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters*

Right Intention - To walk into *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* with the expectation of leaving without any money

Right Speech - to say things like, "I like *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters*, they offer really good products at fantastic prices. The value is unbelievable. And that Gigglesworth fellow, he sure is cute"

Right Action - To go to *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* and spend all your money. Duh?

Right Livelihood - Something that pays really well. It doesn't really matter if other people think it's ethical or not or if the legality of it is in question. The bottom line is how full your pockets are when you walk into *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters*, in relation to how empty they are when you leave

Right Effort - Effort doesn't really count for much. Listen to Yoda, "Go to *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* or go not, there is no try"

Right Mindfulness - This generally means not peeling back the price sticker on a *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* item to reveal the previous store's sticker price. Others believe it means accepting the price on the item without trying to haggle, as trying to negotiate a better price is rude and defeating to both the self and GigglesWorth's bottom line.

Right Concentration - Concentrate on that shot glass. Hold it dear to your heart. Wouldn't your life be better if you just had a souvenir shot glass from *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters*? Yes it would. Concentrate on that.

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Mr. GigglesWorth Rants #4

In which your Personal Savior, Avante Garde Thinker, Renaissance Man, and all around Good Guy, Mr. GigglesWorth, relates his updated Eightfold Path in a clear cut manner.

If you've read this far in *The Foolish Being's Pocket Book Guide to Personal Enlightenment*, then you are probably enlightened, unless of course you are a dolt or just haven't been paying attention. We at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* don't just publish any old hack pamphlet in the hopes of making a quick profit. As a careful reading of this document will reveal we are an environmentally friendly, global enterprise, dedicated to the sustainability of our business model.

That being said, what's the point of being enlightened if you can't rub it in your neighbors face? And what better way to do that than by buying a bumper sticker, which reads, "I went to *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* and got enlightened," or a T-shirt which reads, "*What would GigglesWorth Charge?*"

It is a well established monetary fact that upon reaching enlightenment, you have a duty and obligation (so, like, it's a moral imperative) to turn around and charge those behind you on the path as much money as possible to reach the next step... or at least, remind them of your superiority. How can you know you are enlightened, if others don't know it? And how will others know it, if you don't buy lots and lots of proprietary branded merchandise at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters*.

Mr GigglesWorth Explains

A modern interpretation of the Eightfold Path and how a healthy consumer relationship with *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* is akin to personal enlightenment.

Eat Right - Only eat GigglesWorth's Own branded food, or buy bulk stickers at \$1 each to put on your own food

Sleep Right - That means staying at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitter*, if you're not enlightened enough to afford the \$50,000 a week list price, we have many personal assistant/slavery options open. Ask your spiritual adviser for details.

Consume Less - This explains why all products at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* are smaller in size than at other (heathen, godless) outlets

Less is More - This is why you have to pay more for the smaller packages available at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* than for the larger, more plentiful packages available elsewhere. Well, that. And profit margin.

Control Your Mental Landscape - You will encounter nay sayers and those adrift in a sea of negative thoughts. They will bring up Mr. GigglesWorth previous difficulties with law enforcement agencies and how several professional organizations have barred him from membership. These people are evil and agents of the devil. Do not listen to them. Hiss at them and walk away. If forced to do business with them, charge them more.

Create Your Own Reality - What this really means is purchasing a sightseeing tour or adventure from *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters*. Life is a celebration and can be catered by our staff for a reasonable fee.

Love Others - Free love baby. If further explanation or personal demonstration is desired, discreetly contact Mr. GigglesWorth.

Love Yourself - No. It doesn't mean that... but then even Mr. GigglesWorth cannot attend to all your needs... Wait. What am I saying? Love yourself. Buy that *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* shot glass you've always wanted. You deserve it.

Remember if it can't be purchased at *GigglesWorth General Store and Expedition Outfitters* maybe it doesn't exist.

Some items may be temporarily out of stock. Payment required in full at time of order. No credit. No returns. Neither God nor Mr. Gigglesworth like complainers.

{Hmm. And now (2020-05-21), I really can't tell you why this wasn't pushed to the web with the first batch. Maybe, in keeping with the overall theme, I was hoping to sell it for Cash Money, someday. Tell you what. We're all enlightened beings, here. So, let's just do this on the Honor System. And you can Pay It Forward, as is your inclination.

"WHAT? NO!" I can just hear Mr GigglesWorth scream. "ARE YOU INSANE?"

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