

Franklin Merrell-Wolff in a Nutshell

“The consciousness to be sought is the state of pure subjectivity without an object.”

“Consciousness is, before any being became. Thus, “God,” whether considered as an existence or simply as an integrating concept, is, in any case, derivative.”

“To be known is to be an object. Since by “universe” I mean the totality of all possible objects, it then follows that the universe is dependent upon being known for its existence. The universe exists for one who experiences or thinks, but for none other.”

“From the standpoint of Consciousness-without-an-object, there is no problem concerning immortality. The directly known truth is: Immortality is, but no embodied or object-bound stage of consciousness is immortal. This simply means that the Sea of Consciousness is without beginning or end, being completely unconditioned by time, but the various stages wherein that Sea supports objects are temporary. Thus man, as man, is not immortal.”

“Immortality attaches to consciousness as a principle, not to the stages. Man may achieve immortality by superimposing his evolved power of self-consciousness upon the Primordial Consciousness itself, but in this case he simply ceases to be a man.”

“Put in other terms, all somatic stages are temporary; the consciousness stream is without beginning or end.”

“Consciousness-without-an-object is not a First Cause; it is the substratum underlying all possible states and causes.”

“All objects of whatever type, whether objects for sensation or for thought, whether subtle or gross, whether abstract or concrete, in the last analysis possess only a derivative reality, and thus may be regarded finally as a seeming only.”

“The One, non-derivative Reality, is THAT which I have symbolized by Consciousness-without-an-object. This is Root Consciousness, per se, to be distinguished from consciousness as content or as state, on the one hand, and from consciousness as an attribute of a Self or Atman, in any sense whatsoever.”

“The questions of the means by which any individual may arrive at a direct Realization of Consciousness-without-an-object is one that is very involved and the solution has many variants. It is reached by a progressive series of steps, such that a lower attachment or identification is renounced for one that is superior. The process being repeated again and again.”

**Two aphorisms for contemplation: Consciousness of objects is the Universe
Consciousness without objects is Nirvana**

Excerpted from: **Philosophy of Consciousness Without an Object: Reflections on the Nature of Transcendental Consciousness** by Franklin Merrell-Wolff. New York: The Julian Press, 1973.

Also see: <http://www.merrell-wolff.org/>
<http://www.integralscience.org/gsc/>