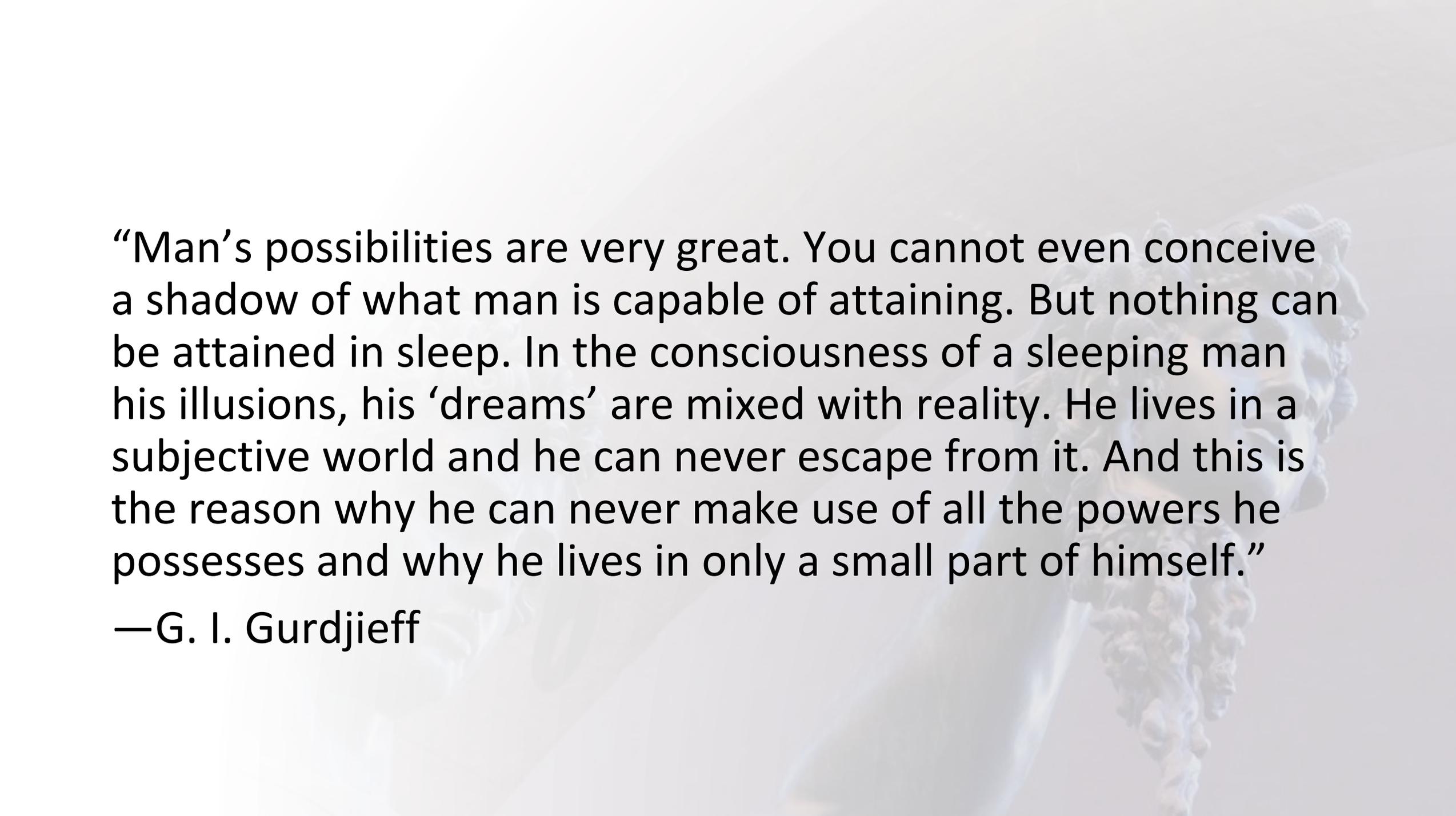




# The Multiplicity of Self

Introductory Lectures



“Man’s possibilities are very great. You cannot even conceive a shadow of what man is capable of attaining. But nothing can be attained in sleep. In the consciousness of a sleeping man his illusions, his ‘dreams’ are mixed with reality. He lives in a subjective world and he can never escape from it. And this is the reason why he can never make use of all the powers he possesses and why he lives in only a small part of himself.”

—G. I. Gurdjieff

# Man as “Machine”



“Will is a sign of a being of a very high order of existence as compared with the being of an ordinary man. Only men who are in possession of such a being can *do*. All other men are merely automata, put into action by external forces like machines or clockwork toys, acting as much and as long as the wound-up spring within them acts, and not capable of adding anything to its force.”

—Gurdjieff, *Views from the Real World*

# Our State of Multiplicity

“Many thousands of different individuals, different persons, “I’s,” or people who quarrel amongst themselves, who fight amongst themselves for supremacy and who do not have order or concordance whatsoever, exist within each one of us.

If we were conscious, if we were to awaken from so many dreams and fantasies, how different life would be...

Nonetheless, as if our misfortune was not enough, negative emotions, self-love and self-esteem fascinate us, hypnotize us, never allowing us to remember ourselves, to see ourselves exactly the way we are...”

—Samael Aun Weor, *Treatise of Revolutionary Psychology*

# Individual Will

“We believe that we have one will, when in reality we possess many different wills. Each “I” has its own will. The tragic comedy of all this interior multiplicity is dreadful. The different internal wills clash against each other, they live in continuous conflict, and they act in different directions. If we had true individuality, if we were a unity instead of a multiplicity, then we would also have continuity of purpose, awakened Consciousness, a particular, individual will.”

—Samael Aun Weor, *Treatise of Revolutionary Psychology*





Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”  
And he replied, “My name is Legion: for we are many.”  
—Mark 5:9





“All religions speak about death during this life on earth. Death must come before rebirth. But what must die? False confidence in one’s own knowledge, self-love and egoism. Our egoism must be broken. We must realize that we are very complicated machines, and so this process of breaking is bound to be a long and difficult task. Before real growth becomes possible, our personality must die.”

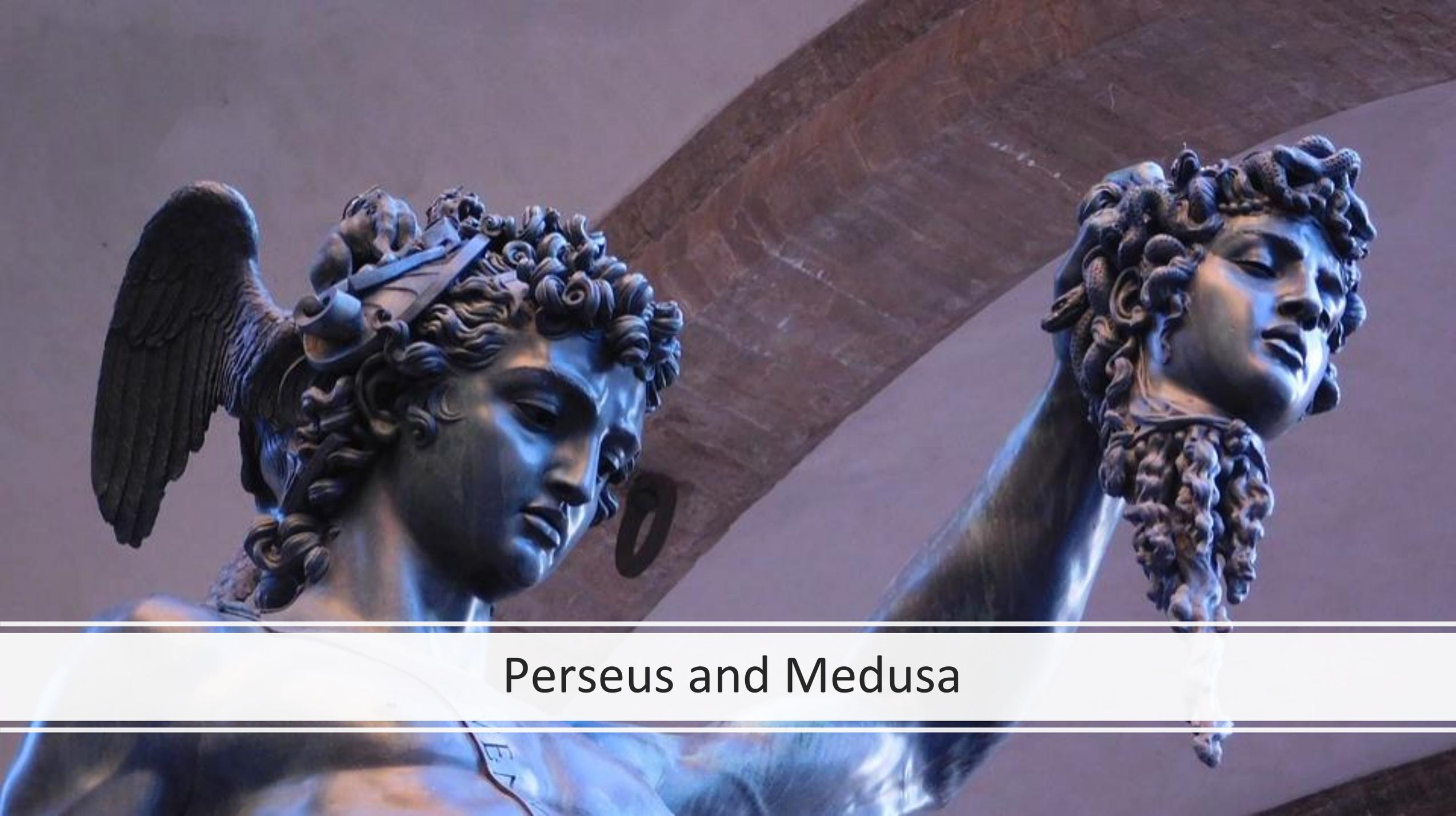
—Gurdjieff, *Views from the Real World*



# Bhagavad-Gita:

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Arjuna's Battle



Perseus and Medusa

# Method for Self-Transformation

- Non-identified self-observation
- Retrospection meditation
- Sincerity
- Willpower
- Prayer

