

Meditation & Pranayama

with Billy Doyle

SUNDAY 21 May 2017 10.30am – 3.45pm

A day of Meditation, Pranayama, Yoga, Self-Enquiry & Discussion

The day will be a mixture of guided meditation, body awareness, working with the breath and the yoga techniques of pranayama. We will also be exploring some yoga postures and there will be discussion of the philosophy.

PROGRAMME (approx.)

Session 1: 10.30 – 11.40 am

TEA

Session 2: 12.00 – 1.00 pm

LUNCH BREAK

Session 3: 2.15 – 3.45 pm

Cost: £50 payable on booking. Numbers are limited
cheques payable to **W. Doyle** or for bank transfer contact me.
Cancellations: No refund within 4 weeks of seminar.

The venue is beside Hampstead Heath and there are cafes and restaurants nearby.

VENUE: 35 Nassington Road, Hampstead, London, NW3 2TY

Nearest tube station: **Belsize Park**

Overland train: **Hampstead Heath Station**

Buses: **24, 46, 168, C11**

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Pranayama: the art of breathing

Breathing is a natural function but because of tension and fear there tends to be a constant manipulation of the breath. So first we must learn to listen to the breath without trying to change anything and give it the opportunity to free itself of all grasping and pushing. We let the breath breathe us. The inhalation is a gift; the exhalation is an offering.

We also learn to feel and allow the space between each breath, the silence from where each breath is born and where each breath dies.

We will feel the breath in different parts of the body, and in our wholeness, the global sensation. We will focus on the nostrils, feeling the tactile sensation of the breath and the energy within the breath.

We will be using the techniques of pranayama, e.g. ujjayi, bhastrika, kapalabhati, the bandas, alternative nostril breathing, to stimulate and direct the body's energy, bring it to verticality, and to calm the brain; all the time respecting the body's possibilities and not imposing upon it.

On a more spiritual level the breath helps to bring us to silence, to meditation.

Meditation

Meditation is not a cerebral activity, nor concentration, it's not something we do, rather it comes to us when we allow it, when we are innocent of all intention; it's there when we are not there.

However, generally the mind is in constant chatter and the body a mass of density and contraction; this makes going into silence difficult.

So first we must face the fact of what presents itself, without judging or trying to control. This gives us a sense of space, of detachment from the psycho-somatic landscape. We simply 'listen', welcome all that appears, let thoughts come, and go, let the body awaken as sensation and not just a concept in the mind.

In this listening we are no longer an accomplice to our past, our patterns. The body sensation can unfold and free itself.

We will also use certain techniques to help free ourselves from fixation in the forehead, the thought factory.

There comes about a re-orchestration of the body's energy and instead of a feeling of density and contraction we discover the real body to be spacious and transparent. This brings about a deep relaxation of the body – mind and we feel ourselves expanded in space, global, non-localized.

But the emphasis in meditation is not on this expanded body or some experience, which are still objects, however subtle. Rather it is choiceless awareness, the silent background, that which is changeless. You can never think it, you can only be it. Meditation is our natural state, beyond all states, that which is timeless.

a resting so deep

the end of all unrest

a silence so deep

the end of all words

a spaciousness so wide

the end of all boundaries

the Self resting in the Self