

SEVEN

Beyond Listening

The Essence of True Presence

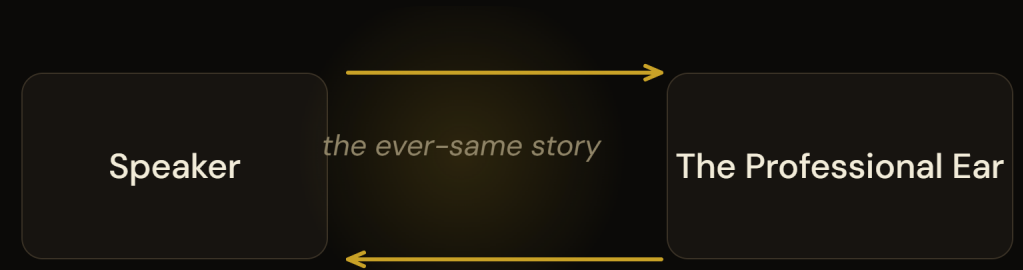
How releasing the outer ear opens the space for one's own truth

THE ENDLESS LOOP OF THE STORY

Why More Listening Doesn't Always Bring Healing

The word can order, name, and bring forth insight. Yet the word can just as easily become a cycle and take the place of true insight.

People often repeat themselves endlessly, carrying their stories out into the world — stories for which they need a foreign ear, instead of turning inward to their own stillness and listening to themselves.



The Trap of Constant Availability

When listening becomes institutionalized and externalized, a space emerges that keeps people from dwelling long enough within themselves. The presence of a "listening counterpart" is mistakenly equated with the presence of a "listening space." The person is heard without hearing themselves — they leave the conversation relieved, but not transformed.



Speaker meets the outer ear — the voice rebounds

THE OUTER EAR



The voice sinks unhindered into its own depth

INNER STILLNESS

The Radical Withdrawal of the Outer Ear

THE ACCUSTOMED EAR

"Your story is too much for me."

A punishing withdrawal

RADICAL COMPASSION

"I see you. But I will no longer take part in a cycle that removes you from yourself."

A compassionate withdrawal

Withdrawal becomes compassion where listening no longer leads to truth, but merely sustains the repetition.

Presence Beyond Mere Attendance

Attendance means: someone is there, listens, reacts, answers. Presence reaches deeper. It means not leaving the person, while refusing to keep carrying their cycle any longer.

The ear does not withdraw from the relationship, but from its role as perpetual bearer, interpreter, and redeemer.

"I do not leave you as a person. I only leave the role in which I am meant to carry your story for you."

Attendance

- Reacting
- Answering
- Confirming

Presence

Remaining, without continuing to carry the role of bearer, interpreter, and redeemer.

The Tetralemma of Listening

Four stages at the edge of human understanding

I

Hearing

The person needs a counterpart. What has never been heard requires protection and witnessing.

2

Not Hearing

Continued listening stabilizes repetition and postpones the encounter with oneself.

3

Hearing and Not Hearing

The counterpart perceives, but no longer feeds the narrative movement.

4

Neither Hearing Nor Not Hearing

The rigid distribution of roles dissolves. It is no longer about reception or rejection.

The Fifth Dimension: Sparsha

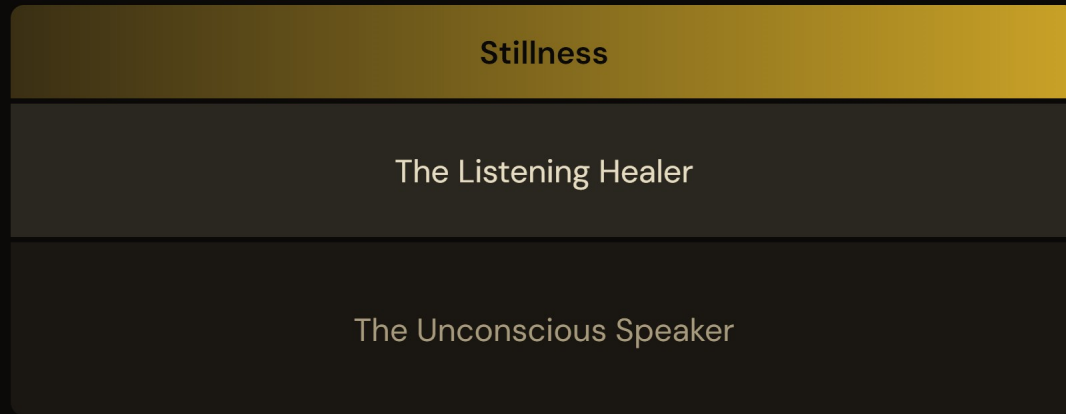
Behind the word and behind listening lies the ever-present space. Sparsha is not listening as an act of a subject toward an object. It is not another form of therapy.

It is the all-encompassing presence that need be neither summoned nor produced. It has always pervaded the smallness of everyday life.

In the ever-present space, what already listens through us becomes apparent.

The Spiritual Hierarchy vs. the Space

THE MENTAL PYRAMID



THE ALL-ENCOMPASSING SPACE



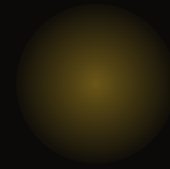
Sparsha does not rise to the top of a pyramid. Stillness pervades word, listening, and silence alike.

The End of Fixed Roles



LISTENER · SPEAKER

The story seeks an ear. The ear confirms its own significance through the story. Both roles ceaselessly bring each other forth.



SPARSHA

In all-encompassing presence, speaker and listener dissolve. They lose their assumed separateness. Listening is no longer asserted as a personal "calling."

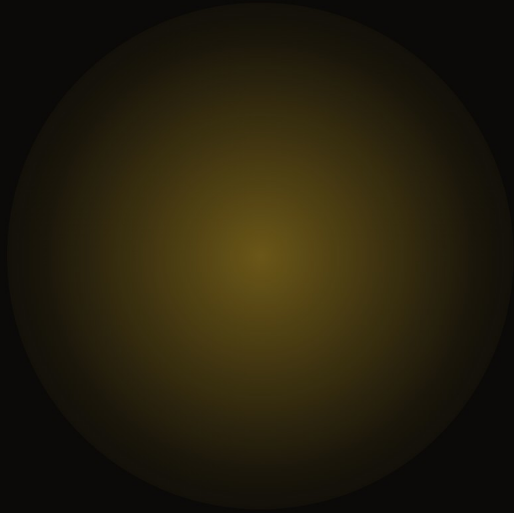
The Absolute Permission of Being: "ALL-THAT-IS May Be"

Sparsha does not immediately banish even the deepest pain or a wish to die into a diagnosis, a prohibition, or a method. It keeps the space open. Ambivalence may be. Not-knowing may be.

Ontological permission is distinct here from ethical action: the abyss may be perceived without first being rendered harmless in words, even where intervention in the physical world is necessary.



Note: In cases of acute risk of suicide or a severe psychological crisis, this approach does not replace medical help. In an emergency, please contact local emergency services or a crisis helpline in your country.



The Spiritual Temptation

The human mind turns almost everything into a task. It asks: What should I do now? How can I attain Sparsha?

As soon as listening, silence, or presence are understood as means to an end, the movement remains linear. Stillness becomes discipline. Sparsha becomes achievement.

The moment presence is turned into a goal, the very movement of separation begins again — the one that turns the present moment into a lack.

Matrix of Accompaniment: Role vs. Space

Dimension	The Professional Ear	The All-Encompassing Presence (Sparsha)
Identity	The called listener, companion, healer.	No fixed role. The listener loses its special standing.
Response to Pain	Classify, diagnose, process, rescue.	Letting it be fully present, without deciding prematurely.
Purpose of the Relationship	Development, transformation, healing.	No linear goal. The goal defeats itself through its goal-directedness.
View of Stillness	A gap in conversation or a therapeutic tool.	The primal ground that was there before every word and asks after none.

The Consequence for Accompaniment

Coaches and psychotherapists should not only learn to listen better. They should learn to see through their own listening.



The foreign ear must not become a permanent dwelling. The deepest accompaniment does not make itself indispensable.

It recognizes the moment when its own ear stands between a person and their immediate experience, and withdraws, so that space opens for the other's own stillness.

The Goal Defeats Itself

What is already present cannot be produced by any procedure. It cannot be listened out of existence, spiritually earned, attained through growth, or held in place through silence.



Sparsha does not begin when the word ends. It does not deepen when someone listens better. Word and stillness, seeking and apparent finding, already appear within what was never absent.

Nothing needs to be said.
Yet even what is said does not fall outside stillness.



No one must be saved in order to belong to ALL-THAT-IS.
And no one can ever fall out of it.