REMOVING DEFECTS OF CHARACTER

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THE EGO AND SELF

EGO

EGO

SELF

SELF

SELF
EGO DEVELOPMENT

- ALTERED WORLDVIEW INITIALLY DEVELOPED BETWEEN TWO AND TEN YEARS OF AGE

0-2: KINESTHETIC, NONLINEAR
2-10: WONDERFUL RECEIVER
10-16: SELF-REFLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS
THE EGO

• *Striving for security and certainty*
  • Illusions
  • Struggle to gain and to achieve which can lead to **GREED**
  • Always becoming, desiring and wanting
  • Always afraid
  • This fear is often beneath **ANGER**
THE EGO

• **Comparing and contrasting**
  • When it believes it is better than others it is euphoric
    • PRIDEFUL and ARROGANT
  • When it believes it is worse than another it becomes depressed
    • This can lead to ENVY and JEALOUSY

• **Is temporal**
  • Psychological time
THE EGO

• *Personal gain*
  • **PRIDE**
    • Front man for the ego
    • Always JUDGING others
    • Has motives, opinions and positionalities
  • To possess
    • **LUST**
  • Always wants more and better
    • **GLUTTONY**
THE EGO

THE EGO DEMANDS ATTACHMENT

• In order to love must be free of attachment and character defects

  • Attachment to another (image we have of the other) leads to...
  • Pride of possession which leads to...
  • Sense of security (illusion) which leads to ...
  • Fear of losing the other which leads to...
  • Increased anxiety and greater attachment (being possessed by the other)
EGO-BASED CHARACTER DEFECTS

• THERE ARE MANY OTHERS MENTIONED INCLUDING...
  • Judgmentalism
  • Self-centeredness
  • Resentful
  • Prejudice
  • Self-pity
  • Self-righteousness
  • Impatience
  • Perfectionism.........etc.
EGO-BASED CHARACTER DEFECTS

• THE EGO FUNCTIONS IN THE PAST AND THE FUTURE AND IS **FEAR** BASED

• CHARACTER DEFECTS CAN BE SEEN AS SPIRITUAL DEFICITS

• CHARACTER DEFECTS RESPOND BEST TO SPIRITUAL METHODS SUCH AS...
  • THE STEPS OF AA
  • BEATITUDES
  • HINDUISM
  • BUDDHISM
  • UNDERSTANDING OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TIME
EGO-BASED CHARACTER DEFECTS

• Story of the Prodigal Son
• Some things psychology and pharmacology cannot effectively treat

*Narcissism is such a problem*

• All character defects come from the narcissistic self-image of the ego

• This leads to an altered *worldview* based on the duality of good and evil that is truly an illusion
EGO-BASED CHARACTER DEFECTS

**WORLDVIEW**

- Grandiosity is a worldview that demands “I need to be better than you”
- When I perceive I am not better than you it leads to anger and/or depression which in turn can lead to judgmentalism, motives, resentments and opinions
- When I perceive I am better than you, it leads to elation, enhanced self-image and a lack of empathy
A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS

GRATITUDE (LOVE)

A CHANGE IN WORLDVIEW

GRANDIOSITY (CHARACTER DEFECTS)
THE EGO-THE “VICTIM”

HEINZ KOHUT-EGO PSYCHOLOGY

GRANDIOSE SELF (EGO) IS FORMED BY INTERNALIZING “ALL GOOD” AND EXTERNALIZING “ALL BAD” EXPERIENCES
THE EGO-THE”VICTIM”

• MY PAST...
  • SHOULD HAVE...
  • COULD HAVE...
  • OUGHT TO BE...

• MY FUTURE...
  • WOULD BE DIFFERENT
THE EGO-THE “VICTIM”

- EMOTION, ESPECIALLY NEGATIVE EMOTION ARE “TOOLS” OF THE EGO

REJECTION

EGO \[\rightarrow\] ANGER, PREJUDICE, ETC.

SECONDARY GAIN \[\leftarrow\] RESENTMENT
• **Surrender is not about giving up or giving in to the wishes of another.** It is about accepting the moment at hand and realizing there is Perfection within the moment. It is the power to accept each moment for what it is rather than yearning for it to be something else. More often than not, our minds want us to believe that the past "should not" have been the way it was and that we do not deserve what the past gave to us or what the future may hold. Our mind, reflects over and over how it should have been or it takes us on a journey into the future of which we could never predict.
A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS

• **It is about living each moment as it comes and not worrying about what has taken place in the past or what may happen in the future.** It is about being certain that each moment of your life is being lived exactly as it is supposed to be to learn the lessons you were brought here to learn. If in the state of surrender than the truest thoughts are always, "Thy will be done."
A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS

• **FORGIVENESS** is not the same as **absolution**.
• We surrender and forgive to get rid of resentments.
• Forgiveness is the mental and/or spiritual process of ceasing to feel resentment, indignation or anger against another person for a perceived offense, difference or mistake, or ceasing to demand punishment or restitution.
A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS

• SELF-FORGIVENESS
  • When our actions have hurt others we need to forgive ourselves
  • Not hold ourselves responsible for pain that others have caused us. Especially when it was not our fault or we could not change the situation.
  • Studies show that the inability to self-forgive can be a factor in depression, anxiety and a weakened immune system
A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS

• One of the barriers people face in forgiving themselves appears to be that people feel morally obligated to hang on to those feelings. They feel they deserve to feel bad.

• Making amends gives us permission to let go

• Forgiving ourselves for hurting another is easier if we first make amends -- thus giving our inner selves a "moral OK"
And acceptance is the answer to all my problems today. When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing or situation-some fact of my life-unacceptable to me, and I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at this moment. Nothing, absolutely nothing happens in God’s world by mistake. Until I could accept my alcoholism, I could not stay sober; unless I accept life completely on life’s terms, I cannot be happy.” — Big Book, pg 449, third edition
A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS

• GRATITUDE FLOWS NATURALLY FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF RELEASE

• GRATITUDE IS NOT A FEELING
  • AS LINUS IN CHARLEY BROWN SAID, “IF YOU WANT A SHIVERY, WARM FEELING GO PEE IN YOUR PANTS.”

• GRATITUDE IS A “GIFT”
PRIDE

• Is devoid of love and essentially destructive leading to over-valuation, denial, playing martyr, opinions, arrogance, boastfulness, haughtiness, holier-than-thou attitude, being snobbish, prejudiced, judgmental, rigid, selfish and unforgiving

• Intellectual pride is ignorance

• Spiritual pride is the main block to spiritual growth

• Religious pride by self-identification with a religion that is “the only true way”
HUMILITY

• Need to let go of pride by discovering its true nature
  • What is pride’s purpose?
  • What is its payoff?
  • For what does it compensate?

• ANSWER:
  • The smaller we feel on the inside, the more we have to compensate for an inner sense of inadequacy by the substitution of pride
HUMILITY

• ANSWER: (continued)
  • *The more we surrender negative emotions the less we rely on pride, in its place will come humility and we will experience it as peacefulness*
  • Humility has nothing to defend and cannot be offended by others as it has no image
  • Now one finds joy in accomplishment and not pride
HUMILITY

- **ANSWER: (continued)**
  - Pride carries with it a need for recognition and if not forthcoming…anger, resentment and even depression
  - If we achieve a goal for the love of the work we are invulnerable to the reactions of others
  - Pridefullness means we can be manipulated, get “suckered in” through appeal to our image
  - Pride loves negative emotions
HUMILITY

• HUMILITY
  • URIAH HEEP IN *DAVID COPPERFIELD*
  • SYNTONIC
  • EQUALS HONESTY
    • *Neither exaggerates or minimizes but accepts reality as it is*

• TO BE HUMBLE IS NOT TO MAKE COMPARISONS
  • *Leads to envy and jealousy*
A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS

• THE “GIFT” IS SPIRITUAL INSPIRATION FREELY AND SPONTANEOUSLY GIVEN

• GRATITUDE IS A WORLDVIEW THAT RECOGNIZES THE “GIFT”

• THE GRATEFUL SEE EVERYTHING OTHERS SEE

• THE DIFFERENCE IS THE APPRECIATION OF THE EXPERIENCE OF LOVE AND BEAUTY FOUND IN ALL LIVING THINGS
A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS

• NOT THE ARROGANCE OF GRANDIOSITY
  • “I’ve worked hard to get here and I deserve to be here and don’t you forget it.”

• IT IS THE VIEW OF A GRATEFUL SPIRIT
  • ‘how fortunate I am to be here and to do what I love…thinking and researching and sharing what I have learned. So many have helped me along the way.’
A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS

• WHAT DO YOU HAVE THAT YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED?
  • Gratitude says THANKS
  • Grandiosity (greed) DEMANDS MORE

• “TO THOSE THAT HAVE MORE WILL BE GIVEN.”
  • Self-fulfilling prophesy
  • Only the grateful are in a position to receive
THE STEPS OF AA

- **6th Step** - Were entirely ready to have God remove all of these defects of character
  - Entirely ready
    - No resistance
    - Must totally surrender to God
      - To surrender is to see things **in the moment** and just as God planned for them to be
    - **God must do this as we cannot**
THE STEPS OF AA

- **7th STEP - HUMBLY ASKED HIM TO REMOVE OUR SHORTCOMINGS**
  - To be humble is to understand we can do nothing of our own
  - In order to be humble we must rid ourselves of the pride of the ego
  - We asked Him to perform a spiritual intervention on our behalf through prayer, contemplation and meditation
THE STEPS OF AA

• For character defect removal must apply the spiritual principle of willingness *(being willing to act differently)*

• Fear is the chief roadblock to willingness

• Willingness requires faith and trust in one’s Higher Power such that we believe the removal of character defects will not hurt us or others in our lives
THE STEPS OF AA

• “ENTIRELY” and “ALL” can lead to self-criticism and perfectionism
  • Need to understand even though our willingness must be complete we are probably never going to be perfect in this lifetime
    • When we stumble need to use the spiritual principle of self-acceptance
    • Accept our capability to act-out but still be committed to change
THE STEPS OF AA

• Sometimes our Higher Power might modify our defects so it serves a productive purpose
  • Example-Bill W. and his self-centered pride was transformed into a gift which resulted in the writing of a large body of recovery literature

• Also, nowhere in the text of this step does it say our Higher Power “will” remove defects

• Spiritual healing is a perceptual (worldview) change therefore a defect can be transformed into a gift

• Reality is not in need of healing-only our egoic perception
THE STEPS OF AA

• *How does prayer help?*
  • It doesn’t help if we are asking God to do the work for us
  • One might ask for the strength to change
  • Prayer is most effective when in silence and solitude we totally open ourselves up to God

• *How does making amends help?*
  • *If action is an extension of the SELF it helps*
  • *If action is ego-based it will not help*
THE SELF

• THERE IS A “CHRIST” IN ALL OF US
• TO REALIZE REQUIRES GREAT DESIRE
• JESUS SHOWS US THE WAY
  • EXAMPLE-BEATITUDES
  • TO GET DIRECT KNOWLEDGE ONE MUST FIND OUT WHO ONE TRULY IS
    • ALL SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS TAKE US TO “SELF”
THE SELF

• *SIN IS...*
  • A REFUSAL TO GROW
  • A REFUSAL TO LOVE
  • A REFUSAL TO BE COMMITTED
  • A REFUSAL TO BE CONCERNED
  • A REFUSAL TO TAKE RISKS

PARABLES-OF THE TALENTS (MATT 25:14-30) and REFUSAL TO BEAR FRUIT (MATT 7:17-20)
THE SELF

- SIN IS NOT....
  - ACTS
  - DEEDS
  - LAWS
  - OBLIGATIONS

- THESE ARE SYMPTOMS OF A LACK OF SELF AWARENESS (TRUTH)

- HOLY SPIRIT IS TRUTH
SEEKING TRUTH

• There is a compulsion within you to find the missing factor in your life, that which will restore you to your original state of harmony, joy and peace

• THE MISSING FACTOR IS THE PRACTICE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD

• Keep the Word of God alive within you and you will never lack
SEEKING TRUTH

• The Word must be more than a quotation from a book
• IT MUST COME ALIVE WITHIN US
• It must be a vital living force (PRESENCE)
• The Bible is the Book of Life when spiritually discerned
  • When it takes root within your consciousness
  • GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS
SEEKING TRUTH

• ESOTERIC AND EXOTERIC TEACHING
  • A spiritual teaching penetrates beneath every human symbol to its spiritual meaning
  • Once this principle is understood and applied we are living a spiritual life
  • What is set forth for all to read is the exoteric teaching but each has an esoteric meaning
  • EXAMPLE-91st Psalm “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty”
EGOLESS

• **FIRST** BEAUTY IS A REQUIREMENT FOR THOSE WHO SEEK TRUTH
  • ONE NEEDS A DEEP FEELING FOR LIFE AND NOT BE TOTALLY CAUGHT UP IN INTELLECTUAL PURSUITS. **INTELLECT IS NOT THE WAY.**
  • DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORLD IS PERFECT? ALL CONFLICT IS A PRODUCT OF THE INTELLECT (THOUGHT, EGO)
  • INTELLECT IS LIMITED BUT SENSITIVITY HAS NO CONDITIONING-IT TAKES YOU OUT OF THE FIELD OF ANXIETY AND FEAR
EGOLESS

• **FIRST** BEAUTY IS A REQUIREMENT FOR THOSE WHO SEEK TRUTH
  • THE MIND THAT IS NOT SENSITIVE TO EVERYTHING AROUND IT IS INCAPABLE OF FINDING TRUTH
    • **IT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE LOST THE “FEELING”**

• **SECOND** THE QUALITY OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE IS REQUIRED
  • LOVE IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF BEAUTY-TO SEE THE BEAUTY IN EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE
  • WITHOUT LOVE YOU CAN GO TO RETREATS, MONASTERIES AND MEDITATE FOR YEARS AND NOT FIND TRUTH
EGOLESS

• **THIRD** THE QUALITIES OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND BEAUTY GIVE US A SENSITIVE (ORDERLY) MIND CAPABLE OF RECEIVING

  “RING THE BELLS THAT STILL CAN RING
FORGET YOUR PERFECT OFFERING
THERE IS A CRACK IN EVERYTHING
THAT’S HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN
THAT’S HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN.”

  “ANTHEM” LEONARD COHEN
EGOLESS

• **THIRD** THE QUALITIES OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND BEAUTY GIVE US A SENSITIVE (ORDERLY) MIND CAPABLE OF RECEIVING
  
  • A SENSITIVE MIND IS VULNERABLE, DEFENSELESS
  
  • THE MIND MUST BE VULNERABLE FOR THE TRUTH TO ENTER
    
    • EXAMPLE-THE TRUTH THAT YOU ARE ENVIOUS, JEALOUS, GREEDY...
  
  • WATCH OUT FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERS WHO TELL YOU THEY CAN SHOW YOU THE WAY TO LOVE AND FREEDOM
EGOLESS

*THIRD* THE QUALITIES OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND BEAUTY GIVE US A SENSITIVE (ORDERLY) MIND CAPABLE OF RECEIVING

• A LEADER WANTS TO LEAD PEOPLE TO SOMETHING THEY THINK IS RIGHT BUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE CANNOT BE FOUND THERE—BECAUSE THEY ARE A LEADER

• UNCONDITIONAL LOVE NEVER EXERCISES AUTHORITY
EGOLESS

• **FOURTH** THE MIND MUST BE FREE AND DISCONTENT
  • THE TYPE OF DISCONTENT THAT SAYS THERE MUST BE MORE
  • A FEELING OF NOT FITTING INTO WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND YOU
  • THIS GIVES US ENERGY AND IS THE BEGINNING OF FREEDOM
    • NOT FREEDOM FROM SOMETHING
    • NOT FREEDOM WE HOPE TO GAIN BY CERTAIN SPIRITUAL PRACTICES
EGOLESS

- **FOURTH** THE MIND MUST BE FREE AND DISCONTENT
  - THERE IS A SENSE OF FREEDOM THAT IS NOT FROM ANYTHING, WHICH HAS NO CAUSE
  - IT IS A STATE OF BEING FREE
  - ISN’T THE FREEDOM WE STRIVE FOR ALWAYS BY OUR WILL?
  - SO WHAT IS WILL?
    - “I MUST BE” AND “I AM GOING TO BE”
    - “THE WILL TO NOT RESIST AND GO WITH THE CROWD”
EGOLESS

• **FOURTH** THE MIND MUST BE FREE AND DISCONTENT
  • THE WILL COMES FROM DESIRE
  • THE VERY DESIRE FOR FREEDOM IS THE DENIAL OF IT
  • DESIRE IS JUST ANOTHER DESIRABLE STATE I WANT INSTEAD OF “WHAT IS”
  • TRUE FREEDOM IS A QUALITY OF MIND, YOU CANNOT SEEK IT
EGOLESS

• **FIFTH** A PERSON WHO IS CONVINCED OF SOMETHING IS INCAPABLE OF SEEING WHAT IS TRUE
  • YOU CAN BE UNCONDITIONED AND CONVINCED OF SOMETHING ELSE
  • WHEN YOU RECEIVE “TRUTH” IT JUST IS
    • INTUITIVE
  • IT IS PERFECT MOMENT TO PERFECT MOMENT
EGOLESS

• **FIFTH A PERSON WHO IS CONVINCED OF SOMETHING IS INCAPABLE OF SEEING WHAT IS TRUE**

• **TO DIE TO THE YESTERDAYS IN FULL CONSCIOUSNESS, WITH VITALITY AND AWARENESS CREATES A MIND IN A STATE OF “NOT KNOWING”**

• **ONLY A MIND CAPABLE OF BEING IN A STATE OF “NOT KNOWING” IS FREE**

• **A MIND THAT LIVES IN THE KNOWN IS IN PRISON**

• **THE MIND IS REALLY LEARNING ONLY WHEN IN A STATE OF “NOT KNOWING”**
EGOLESS

• **SIXTH HOW DO YOU BECOME FREE?**
  
  • **FREEDOM IS PURE OBSERVATION (AWARENESS) WITHOUT FEAR OF PUNISHMENT OR REWARD; IT IS WITHOUT MOTIVE**
  
  • **FREEDOM IS NOT THE END OF EVOLUTION BUT THE BEGINNING**
  
  • ONE CANNOT CULTIVATE FREEDOM BECAUSE THE MINUTE YOU USE YOUR BRAIN YOU ARE USING THOUGHT WHICH IS IN THE PAST AND HAS LITTLE ENERGY
  
  • ONE CANNOT CULTIVATE FREEDOM BY TORTURING ONE’S SELF, EXERCISES, DISCIPLINES AND DENIALS
  
  • **THEREFORE INQUIRY MUST BE NEGATIVE (NEGATION)**
EGOLESS

**SIXTH HOW DO YOU BECOME FREE?**

- EXAMINE, SEARCH YOUR HEART AND MIND TO SEE THAT NOTHING COMES FROM THOUGHT (DESIRE, COMPULSIONS, OBSESSIONS, MOTIVES, OPINIONS, WILL AND ATTACHMENT-ALL EGOIC REACTIONS) CAN LEAD ME TO FREEDOM

- UNDERSTANDING THIS SURRENDER EVERYTHING

- UNDERSTANDING THIS, MY MIND IS OPEN TO FINDING OUT OR RECEIVING WHAT IS FREE AND TRUE

- ONE DOESN’T GO TO FREEDOM AND TRUTH , IT COMES TO YOU
EGOLESS

• **SIXTH HOW DO YOU BECOME FREE?**
  • TOTAL NEGATION IS THE ESSENCE OF THE POSITIVE
    • “NETI”, “NETI”
  • WHEN THERE IS NEGATION OF ALL PSYCHOLOGICAL THOUGHT (OPINIONS, MOTIVES, ATTACHMENTS I.E. ALL MEMORY OF THE PAST)
  • NOW THERE IS LOVE WHICH IS COMPASSION AND INTELLIGENCE
EGOLESS

• **SIXTH HOW DO YOU BECOME FREE?**
  • THE MIND NOW HAS A QUALITY WHICH IS NOT THAT OF A DISCIPLINED MIND SEARCHING OR AN UNDISCIPLINED MIND WANDERING
  • NOW ONE CAN UNDERSTAND FREEDOM WHICH IS NOT A RESULT OF OR FROM SOMETHING
  • THE UNIVERSE CANNOT COME TO A MIND THAT KNOWS MEASUREMENT
    • EXAMPLE-YOU REALIZE YOU CANNOT HAVE A QUIET MIND AS LONG AS THERE IS GREED, JEALOUSY. YOU INQUIRE AND INVESTIGATE AND PURGE YOUR MIND IN A CONSTANT STATE OF NEGATION
EGOLESS

• **SIXTH HOW DO YOU BECOME FREE?**
  • WHEN ONE HAS AN ORDERLY, SENSITIVE MIND IT CAN RECEIVE TRUTH, THE ACTUAL
    • THIS IS INSIGHT
    • INTUITIVE-INTELLIGENCE
THANK YOU

“THE TIME WILL COME WHEN THERE ARE NO MAJOR PROBLEMS IN YOUR OWN LIFE, AND MANY, MANY YEARS GO BY WITHOUT YOU EVER BEING AWARE OF A MAJOR PROBLEM OF YOUR OWN, BUT YOU WILL BE DRAWING TO YOU THOSE OF THE WORLD WHO ARE SEEKING THE SAME FREEDOM THAT YOU HAVE FOUND, AND YOU WILL BE CALLED UPON TO WORK WITH THEM-TO SERVE, TO HEAL, AND TO TEACH-BUT ONLY IN PROPORTION TO YOUR OWN DEMONSTRATION.” J. GOLDSMITH. THE CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE, PG 85.