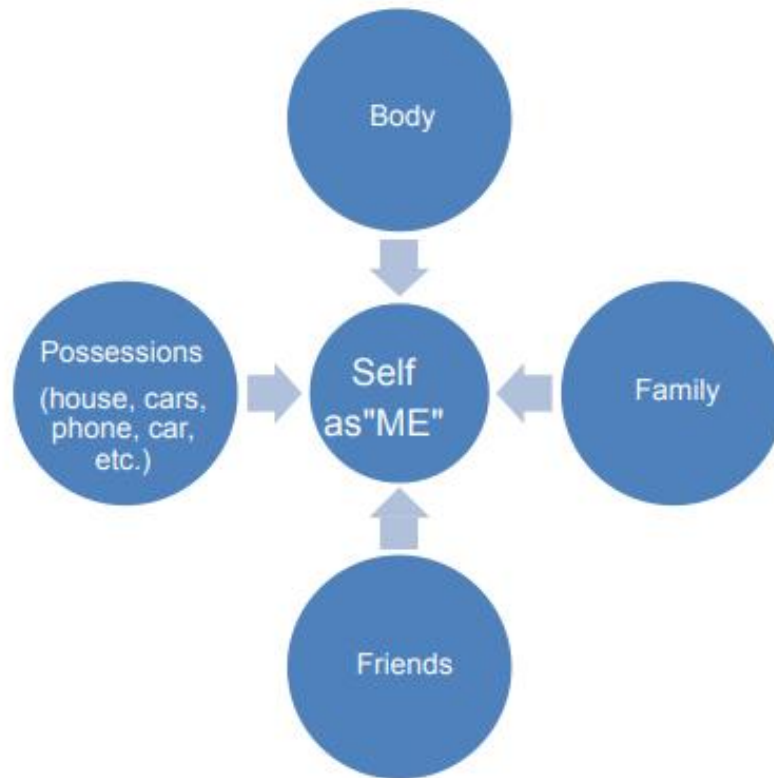


CHAPTER 8

THE MATERIAL AND ECONOMICAL SELF

William James, Also known as the father of American Psychology identified various components of the Empirical self, one of which is what he called a Material Self. According to James, that Man's "Material self" is not only consisting of his own body but also includes the different things he possess from ones family, friends, as well as things such as, ones clothes, house, cars, gadgets, end even the amount of money he has in the bank.



In James' idea of the Material Self, One defines themselves and at the same time is being defined by the people they are acquainted with along with the accumulation of objects and achievements that a person acquired from the different endeavours and experiences in life. For example, a person can identify themselves as a singer not only from their own beliefs that they can sing, we can also consider factors such as if other people also says that he or she can sing, if he or she belongs to a family of singers, have trophies and awards relating to singing (winning a singing contest), or works as a singer in a band or in a concert hall.

The losing of such objects or people will render one feel that apart of him was also lost at the same time, for example, in cases of death in the family, losing a business that a person have invested for his entire life, sudden inability to play music because of an accident. Also, the time a person died his possessions and associations with other people will be the only objects that will remind the world of who that person were.

So we represent ourselves through clothes, the gadgets we wear, the friends we have and the things that we do. All of these contribute to whether we are accepted or not in the world we live in. With this in mind, the choices that we make in order to achieve the recognition of others depends not only on our own capabilities but more so on the value we and the other people give to what we have or can acquire. For example, now the things like having an Iphone, drinking coffee at Starbucks, or buying branded clothes maybe used as a manifestation of a good social standing it may not be similar to owning a company, having a house at an exclusive subdivision but the former are much easier to acquire and achieve than the latter.

Having the ability to find the things that will define yourself that will persist through time, where your life and achievements both define who you are and what you are capable of and at the same time provide you with the direction and knowledge on what to prioritize will result to a more cohesive and easier establishment of who you are as a person and what you want to be in life.