



DEFINE YOURSELF

A white curved arrow pointing from the end of the text 'DEFINE YOURSELF' back to the start of the word 'DEFINE'. The arrow starts at the top right of the word 'YOURSELF' and curves downwards and to the left, ending at the top left of the word 'DEFINE'. The word 'DEFINE' is underlined.



# GOALS



1. How to make real profit from our short stay in the Earth.
2. How to become deliberate in carving out an image for ourselves.



# DEFINITION

What does it mean to define something?



Mark out the boundary or limits of.



## DEFINITION

X Words are mere symbols e.g.

- sadness,
- happiness,
- joy

X Symbols are made up

X Symbols can be changed at any point in time e.g.



X However, what they mean, may not easily be changed



## DEFINITION

- x Meanings breathe life into symbols
- x Meanings are real, the tangible aspect of symbols
- x Defining something is the act of identifying a suitable meaning for a given symbol



## DEFINITION



What meaning will you ascribe to the symbol which you call your name?

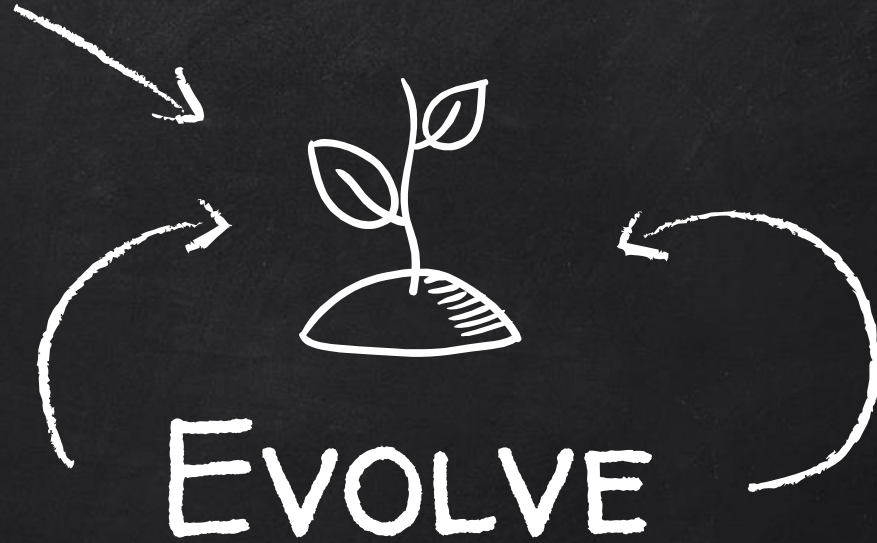




# EVOLUTIONARY CREATURES

Designed for change





Develop gradually.



## EVOLUTIONARY CREATURES

- x Man not only has an opportunity to exist—he also has the ability to decide the manner of man he wishes to become, with the passage of time
- x Time is the element of life that prevents change from happening in an instant
- x This means that whereas a man is born a certain way, he has the ability to change certain aspects of himself if he so desires

A photograph of three women with dark skin, wearing vibrant, patterned headwraps. They have white dots painted on their faces and are holding their hands to their cheeks. The woman on the left has purple lips, the middle one has dark purple lips, and the right one has orange lips. A central white box with a torn edge contains the text "MAN IS AN EVOLUTIONARY CREATURE".

MAN IS AN  
EVOLUTIONARY  
CREATURE





## EVOLUTIONARY CREATURES



Whereas a man once existed as a helpless babe at conception, he eventually develops those faculties that enable him to make a conscious choice as to the kind of person that he wishes to become



## EVOLUTIONARY CREATURES

- x Whereas he once despised men of other race and color, he can begin to take steps towards becoming more accepting of them
- x Whereas he used to repay evil with evil, he can make a conscious decision to begin the practice of repaying evil with good



## EVOLUTIONARY CREATURES

- x Whereas he used to be more willing to speak than hear other's opinions, he can take those steps that will make him more willing to hear other's opinions, rather than voicing his own

...and so a man changes with time.



# HOW WE DEFINE OURSELVES

The things that alter the nature of a man





## HOW WE DEFINE OURSELVES

- x Our human nature is altered by 3 main things:
  1. The thoughts we keep
  2. The words we speak
  3. The actions we take
- x All manner of thoughts may occur to a man, but it matters the thoughts he keeps, and the possibilities that continues to entertain



## HOW WE DEFINE OURSELVES

- x The words we hear may harm us, or even induce certain emotions, but it is the words we speak that have the ability to alter who we are on the inside
- x No idle word can be spoken without altering our personalities
- x Our words impact us before impacting others



## HOW WE DEFINE OURSELVES

- x We may have intentions, motives, but acting on them is what alters who we are and defines us
- x Our actions make us predisposed to certain actions, and how we will ultimately respond to certain situations
- x Being consistent with our actions cements our transformation



## HOW WE DEFINE OURSELVES

- X A person who curses a lot, might eventually find himself cursing in his sleep
- X We do not give because we are charitable, rather, it is the act of giving that makes us charitable
- X Practicing charity gradually transforms us into a person who is naturally predisposed to giving what he has whenever the need arises



## HOW WE DEFINE OURSELVES

- x The deliberate practice of speaking certain words, harboring certain thoughts, and practicing certain deeds culminates in the formation of a man's stature
- x This usually happens in three steps...



## HOW WE DEFINE OURSELVES



1.

Choosing a certain ideal, a better way of life by beholding another person—could be our parents, relative or friend, or even a character in a book





Satisfying one's conception of what  
is perfect; most suitable.





## HOW WE DEFINE OURSELVES



2.

Making a conscious or subconscious decision that this is a better way to live



## HOW WE DEFINE OURSELVES



3.

Proceeding to train to become like that individual in our chosen aspects



# VALUES

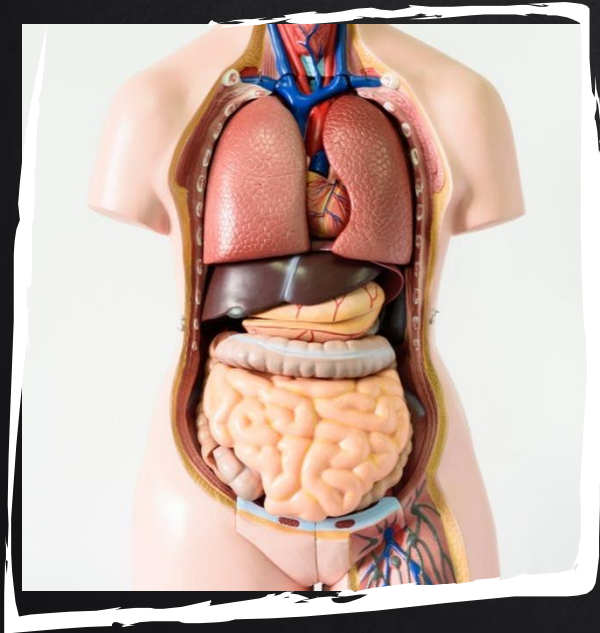
Invisible organs



- x The human body has many organs which help it to function a certain way
- x It has the brain to persist memory
- x The stomach for digesting food which powers the body
- x The liver for detoxification



# VALUES



Which organ helps it to persist a person's values, so that a certain moral disposition can be expected of them at all times?



- x Everything a man does produces a corresponding value in him
- x Human values are not mere symbols
- x Values are real
- x Values have meaning
- x Our values define us





When you kill a man, a part of  
you dies.





## VALUES



Values though not seen with the human eye, are tangible and their abundance or lack thereof in a man has a profound impact on how he approaches the various avenues of life



- x Values have their own storage mechanism and it serves us in the time of need
- x The **fortitude** we build today will be available when all your efforts are met with defeat
- x The **self-control** we acquire today will keep us safe years later, when we are required to demonstrate the ability to govern ourselves



- X **Patience** and **grace** have a special way of helping us deal with delayed expectations
- X **Wisdom** causes us to make good judgment
- X **Hard work** makes us set goals, take initiative and apply diligence and resourcefulness to our work
- X Etc.



NOT SEEN, YET  
VERY REAL



# WHAT IS THE PROFIT?

What do we gain from defining ourselves?





## WHAT IS THE PROFIT?

- x We all struggle to obtain things in this life
- x It has become conventional that in order to make profit, one has to gain more than he gives
- x But what if there is another way of profiting from our earthly existence?



## WHAT IS THE PROFIT?

- x What if the real profit in this life is not the gold bars that we are hoarding in safety deposit boxes, but rather, the manner of man that we are gradually becoming, daily, by the values we practice, the choices we make, the things we say, and it is what we take along with us long after our earthly business is done?





## WHAT IS THE PROFIT?



Learn to turn the soil, put a seed in the ground and nurture it to maturity—the benefits are immense



## WHAT IS THE PROFIT?



Take care of the aged, the effort is  
not wasted



## WHAT IS THE PROFIT?



Show gratitude whenever you can



## WHAT IS THE PROFIT?



It is not required of us to necessarily love all men with our lips, but to attempt to love one human a day, by our deeds.





## WHAT IS THE PROFIT?

- x You will soon realize that life offers us numerous avenues by which we can practice our values, and do those things that enable us to define ourselves



# SUMMARY

What have we learned





## SUMMARY

- X No man comes into this world predefined
- X We acquire definition by the things we choose to practice in our brief existence
- X It is said that “there is no hurry in life”, however, let us not lose time in defining ourselves
- X Let us not pretend that any one really cares about the things that we are selling our souls to buy



## SUMMARY



Have you decided the manner of  
man you wish to become?

If so, then what are you waiting  
for?



THANKS!

Any questions?