

Social Self and Spiritual Self

There are worthy and unworthy human beings in society. It is healthy to engage ourselves with worthy humans and summarily dismiss opinions of the unworthy variety. It is our fault to start placing every member of human society on the highest pedestal, considering their opinions as gospel truth, and ultimately getting affected by their diverse idiosyncrasies. When we believe God created humans in His image and accept it to accordingly start seeing the unadulterated manifestation of God himself in every human being, we face multiple impediments. The bud might be there, but it is a long way from a full bloom. Looking at humanity from the scientific platform, science sees human beings just as an evolved breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star. It is of utmost importance for a true spiritual traveler to learn to distinguish between his/her social and spiritual selves. One of the greatest mistakes is that our identity is defined and controlled by society. We often allow the pressures and imprints of what we call society to dominate our lives, which belong to our own. Our life is our project, and it is up to us to choose what we would like to do in our lives. When a child is born, he/she has absolute freedom, and all the alternatives are open before the child. However, after some time, with the growth of the child, society, his/her parents, and other close ones inclusive, who also happen to be already tempered to the tune of the society, start putting pressure and influencing him; accordingly, the child makes his choices, starts moving in a certain direction, one thing leads to another, and slowly the child is found to have taken a certain route, and all the other alternatives are found to get dropped. With their small knowledge and understanding, and still a smaller vision, a human society consisting chiefly of average humans, has its own curtailed way of evaluating someone, but that poor person starts responding to the wants of society. Suppose someone is a good poet in society. Generally, a person who happens to be a poet starts to get slowly but is steadily influenced by the reactions of society. He or she starts reacting and responding to the likes and dislikes of society, and ultimately society takes and operates the remote control of that person's life. This is a type of bondage. In this way, the social self of us is born, outgrowing our original spiritual self, and we begin forgetting our essential self. The other society does not solely consist of a particular biological life form known as human beings; therefore, we need not seriously consider only human opinions. Our society should comprise of all flora and fauna, all celestial bodies, and all the majesties that lie beyond. Those adhering strictly to the norms of human society are constantly bothered about human opinions, profound

ignorance, questionable intelligence, and ridiculous moral and spiritual standards, rather than finding contentment in being in tune and rhythm with the interesting and intoxicating thoughts of the creation as a whole. When we go deeper into ourselves and find our essential spiritual self, we feel our original identity. It is who we truly are and not what others want us. Once we recognize this true self, we begin operating from the core of our original self, keeping the social self on the periphery. The Absolute plays with us the game of consciousness to deprogram and decondition our consciousness and lift it to a certain level, from where we start our journey of being our own master, coloring, and choreographing ourselves all by our sweet whim.