

veracity · 2 years ago

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Mahatma Gandhi very famously said, that when in indecision, think about the poorest man you have ever come across and imagine how your decision will impact his life. You will sure find your answer. Truly, to find what the heart really wants and what our conscience really desires, one must look around and do a good deed. And if the good deed feels liberating, as it does to most, you sure are on the path to self discovery.

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It is surprising that men divided by caste, religion, language etc, all find it in their cultures that one instruction, that tells them to serve others in whatever way they can. Love and service of one's brethren is a concept that no religious scripture has failed to imbibe in its teaching. And it is not just religion, several constitutions too have successfully incorporated service of others in their texts. India's directive principles of state policy and provisions for affirmative inequality were a leap forward in assigning to the state government the responsibility of serving its people.

All these observations ascertain one fact. That humans find it natural to extend help to a person in need. And in abstaining from doing so, we are going against our innate reactions. To find ourselves is to go by these innate feelings. Thus, to find ourselves is to lose ourselves in the service of others.

The path to self discovery is sought by all. From the most powerful man on earth to the poor farmer facing severe drought, each one is hounded by insecurity and ambivalence. Philosophers and theologians continue to come up with new and revolutionary theories on the meaning of life and the quest to self discovery. Some cut off from the mundane attractions the world has to offer and search respite in the arkham of some godman.

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The story of transformation of Mahatma Gandhi from an ordinary attorney to the leader of a movement of humongous proportions, a messiah to millions and the father of a nation is a story of self-discovery. Who would have thought that a frail advocate thoroughly educated in England, would one day bring the British empire to its knees? The Mahatma himself did not know his potential until he dedicated his life to the service of the people of his country. In that one decision, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi became the Mahatma that he was ordained to be.

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. The utilitarian societies we live and function in, have reduced

us to mere mortals engaged in a life of materialistic quests. The service of others imparts sensitivity and compassion, softens our programmed hearts and minds, and evokes emotions and reactions we didn't know we were capable of. It is like coming out of a shell of pretensions, one has spent his whole life in and embracing the reality of the world and in the process,



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Finding yourself is finding the purpose
to your life. Focusing on one's life only and
living it up may give flickering happiness
but true joy and solace can be found
only when your life has a vision, when
your actions can save others and when
you become important to the society. Only
in the society can man discover himself,
since he was born a social animal.

One often wonders why a person
as rich and endowed as Bill Gates would
need to give money away in charity?
Maybe he finds peace but what kind of
peace does one find in parting with one's
hard earned money? You proceed to
call him an anomaly until you realize
that there are many who do the
same. And it's not just the rich, there are
people barely making a living and yet