



The ego

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What is identified by all the world religions and modern psychology as *ego* is a consequence of encrustation of the primordial human soul, may be as yet fertile and productive at the social and psychological level and only at these levels, but nonetheless, coagulation. Through loss of spiritual dynamism, unity and spontaneity of the soul have been fractured and over time, the surface of the soul has become rigid, brittle, gross, dark and impervious.

It may not be incorrect to conclude that *ego* is harmful at spiritual level but is necessary to participate in a social life centered around production of food and all the rest, even when the human beings lived in as small a townships as the earliest villages which were established ten thousand years ago.

The origin of human soul is the Divine Sun of the Spirit from where it was separated through centrifugal push. The act of creation is itself beyond time (beyond the lunar orbit). The primordial human nature is accordingly eternal. However, not being the Sun, the hot molten earth, with time, through inevitable dissipation of heat, would lose its “thermal dynamism.” A crust, thin as it would be, will be developed.

This is *ego*.

Earth is the metaphor of *ego*. This metaphor helps to explain the nature of *ego* and its relation with the rest of the soul. It may be noted that the point of view is metaphysical and not psychological or philosophical. The *nafs* (in Arabic), which is called *ego* in the diction of psychology, was not always there but developed as a result of a great event in the human history (Biblical fall and Koranic habut). This change is what the traditional data call entry into the Iron Age, which started with the inauguration of civilization and emergence of agriculture. This is best explained in the laws of cycles of Time in the Hindu tradition.

My interpretation is that in the Golden Age man was free of this layer of second nature, which is what *ego* is; I make the analogy that *ego* has a similar relation with primordial human soul as that the crust of the earth has with the rest of the earth. That is, it is a part of the whole but solidified or shall we say a thin encrusted layer of the soul formed through coagulation of the soul “material.” The earth developed its crust through cooling similarly the soul developed its crust that is *ego* through loss of its own “dynamism.”

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The Satan in the Muslim concept is also a Jin who had reached the stature of an Angel through piety and worship of Allâh but was cursed because he disobeyed Allâh by refusing to bow down to Adam at the time of creation of Adam by Allâh with His two hands. The hardening of the heart that almost all traditions refer to is also the same phenomena of formation of *ego*.

Please note that while formation of *ego* is inevitable yet it is in the domain of time that is historical in origin as such neither eternal nor perpetual. *Ego* and civilization and culture are, so to say siblings. Salvation is to undo the *ego* by crystallization and not hardening of soul "material" which is also the "substance" of the *ego*. Once *ego* has crystallized, it becomes transparent to and does not obstruct the Light of Allâh, any more which is the worst implication in the formation of *ego*. The practice of *tapassia* in the Hindu tradition achieves the same results. It melts the hardened heart.