

Ethics and Principles

We will not speak here about alchemical or scientific principles, but rather about those principles that mark our existence.

Originally, principles were the sorts of social rules of conduct which set the balance of forces ensuring the functioning of human societies. They sometimes seem inadequate, according to our own concepts. After examination we can work to change rather than to override them, which may cause harm to ourselves or others.

Concerning individual principles, they have their origin in family, education, social, religious and, later, depending on your path, they were developed in the political, philosophical, or other arenas. But if we are not careful, the principles we put forward are often habits rather than references to "good behavior", so they are used automatically, without reflection, without meditation, without estimating their reality or value. Moreover, the fact of declaring: "I have principles," or "I am this" or "I do things like that" is very often a justification of our behavior not only vis-à-vis others but also vis-à-vis ourselves and our conscience.

We do not have to be unprincipled but we do not have to be slaves to them. Also, before adopting a temporarily or permanent one, a review is required; for this we have a certain degree of freedom available.

If we have sufficiently advanced on the initiatory Path and got some inner awakening, the problem of choosing the right or wrong principle or behavior change is practically solved. Indeed, discernment acquired through this awakening, or communication with the Inner Self will suggest the best solution for us.

If we are not yet at this point, it is not beneficial to have strong views to change things. Yet that is what we tend to do: we operate like the pendulum that just received a push, and we adopt an attitude opposed to the first. To see clearly it is better moderate the movement by using our brains. Then, to find our mark, the first thing to do is to reckon if we made some reasonable efforts towards our Becoming or, as we sometimes say, if we walked in the direction of the Cosmic Wind, not against it. If we are willing it does not mean that the answer to the question asked will be placed clearly on the screen of our conscience.

In fact, it is here, as in any situation where a question is asked internally about a course of action. For the person of good will, who expects a response of any kind, the approach is that of the little king should rise from his throne to go see the Great King. This attitude alone, starts the process of listening and even awakening. The inner awakening that started remains at the beginning usually in the unconscious. It does not manifest in the physical realm but as in a timely and discreet manner. Gradually, the answer comes. Very often it is in a manner different from that envisaged and always more efficient and often more enjoyable.

If we're not the lucky recipient of answers to questions posed internally, we must not be discouraged but use our common sense and wait in silence for the little inner voice.

As long as we do not have inner discernment, let's forge some honest principles for ourselves but let's avoid being a slave to unnecessary and artificial maxims.

Regularly, we say that the heart and brain are the channels of Initiation, but the heart only works if the recipient has a certain ethics and initiation can only be received if it is in harmony with our Inner Master.

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