

The "Ego" and the "Other"

Although man is the master of earth, with all its potential at his disposal with the aim of achieving an unlimited scientific progress toward his endless horizons of ambition, a human baby is born weak and helpless.

He cannot survive a single day without relying on others for feed and care. In this sense, a human baby is weaker than a newborn fish or insect which can depend on itself without the help of others.

This is the first lesson for man to know that he cannot survive without the "other."

Although man in his childhood is highly intelligent, he can see or recognize himself only through observing the "other." He watches the "other" playing, jumping and running, and learns how to imitate him.

Man starts recognizing himself by comparing himself to the "other", and thus imitating the actions he likes and distancing himself from what he does not like.

Once man decides to start a profession he learns it from the "other." Without the "other" the "ego" cannot learn a trade whose know-how is in the hands of the "other."

Every "ego" needs the "other" for assessment and success evaluation, so that it could know its standing among others.

The "ego" is helpless vis-à-vis its most private concern in the absence of the "other," especially in the field of ophthalmology, dentistry, nose, ear and throat, surgery, and obstetrics.

Strangely enough, once the "ego" acquires a profession and becomes productive in a specific sphere the "ego" cannot live on its own production alone, as wheat farmer, for instance, cannot live on wheat alone, and the watermelon farmer cannot live on his crop alone, and the merchandise transporter cannot transport his own goods only, and the author of a book cannot be the sole reader of his book.

Hence, the product of the "ego" is intended for the "other" for evaluation and consumption.

In fact, the "other" is more important than the "ego" itself, as without the "other" the "ego" will not find the sustenance to stay alive.

Every one of us should deal with the "other" from the perspective of this fact, establishing bonds of intimacy and friendship with the "other" that should be recognized as a crucial factor in the success every one of us has to achieve.

Such success is not decided by destiny but rather by my acknowledgment of the role of the "other" in achieving my success.