

Of Ego

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Abstract

Both poor and rich are the victims of ego. But all do not suffer from ego. It diminishes clarity of thought. Chance comes once. An intelligent person avails the opportunity freeing himself from the clutches of ego. He holds ego when there is no interest. He releases ego when there is gain. Thus he wins both ways. But a fool loses always. He holds when it should not and holds not when it should.

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Introduction

Creative writing is based more on manifestation rather than on expression. It does not inform, rather it reveals. So it bears no reference. The best creative writing is critical, and the best critical writing is creative. This article is an outcome of thinking about creative writing meant for a general readership. As such, I have adopted a free style methodology so that everyone can enjoy the pleasure of reading. As you might know, Francis Bacon (1561-1626), the immortal essayist, wrote many essays namely 'Of Love', 'Of Friendship', 'Of Ambition', 'Of Studies', and so on. The multiple-minded genius correctly pointed out that all the words of the dictionary can be used as themes for essays. But little has been done since his death to continue or finish his monumental task. Bacon's unique individual style of presentation ignited my imagination and encouraged me to write creative essays as a method of relieving a wide range of emotions through catharsis.

Article

Ego is an individual's idea of himself, especially in relation to other people or to the outside world. It is the self. It is the individual as aware of himself i.e., self-aware. It is the "I" or self – that which is conscious and thinks. It is an image of oneself. It means self-esteem. It implies self-confidence. The paradox is that this self assessment is neither inferior nor proper rather it does suffer from superiority complex always. This idea is a curse to him. He is so self-imprisoned. Such a cursed character cannot free himself. Also he likes not and wants not to make him free from the sufferings of such horrific hallucinations which are liable for his utter and untimely ruin. But he cannot realise it. Rather he enjoys it.

Ego is a personality trait. Trait cannot be changed. This trait fol-

lows him like a shadow till he breaths his last. He considers everybody inferior to him. So he hates all. Thus he hurts all. The tragedy is that this hatred returns back to him as boomerang. He is paid back by his own coin. Thus ego is the "I" or self of any person. It is a person as thinking, feeling, and willing, and distinguishing itself from the selves of others and from objects of its thought. It is the enduring and conscious element that knows experience. It is the scholasticism, the complete man comprising both body and soul.

Ego is a conscious thinking subject. It is the part of the mind that reacts to reality and has sense of individuality. From philosophical point of view it is the self, variously conceived as a spiritual substance on which experience is superimposed, the series of acts and mental states introspectively recognized, etc.

A psychoanalyst interprets ego as the part of the psyche resolving conflicts between the impulses of the id, the demands of the environment, and the standards of the superego. Thus it is the part of the psychic apparatus that experiences and reacts to the outside world and thus mediates between the primitive drives of the id and the demands of the social and physical environment.

Both poor and rich are the victims of ego. But all do not suffer from ego. It diminishes clarity of thought. Chance comes once. An intelligent person avails the opportunity freeing himself from the clutches of ego. He holds ego when there is no interest. He releases ego when there is gain. Thus he wins both ways. But a fool loses always. He holds when it should not and holds not when it should.

Egotism implies excessive and frequent use of the pronouns "I" and "me". It is the thinking or speaking too much of oneself. It

manifests self-exaltation. It highlights self-exposure. It is an exaggerated opinion of oneself. It implies selfishness. Thus it discloses self-conceit. It titillates self-importance. It provokes to be self-esteem. It highlights self-image. It paves the way for destruction. It is the excessive pride in oneself or in one's powers, abilities, etc. He considers himself over and above all. He is second to none. He dares no body and cares none. Thus he breaks all barriers and crosses all boundaries. This pride renders his life complex and miserable as well. A bruised or fragile ego renders the victim either furious or calm. Losing the match makes quite a dent in the ego of such a character.

Egoism, from philosophical point of view, is the doctrine that we have proof of nothing but our own existence. As per ethics, egoism is the theory of self-interest as the principle or foundation of morality. It is systematic selfishness. It implies self-opinionatedness.

Egotist or egoist is a person who practises or shows egotism. He accepts the doctrine of egoism. Egoist is self-centered. He is a selfish person. An egoist is arrogantly proud. He thinks and speaks too much of himself or of things as they affect himself. Egoist is an adherent of the metaphysical principle of the ego or self. A politician is always egotistical and attention-seeking. Egoistic is being self-centered in or preoccupied with oneself and the gratification of one's own desires i.e., self-centered.

Egotheism is the deification of self. It implies identification of oneself with God. This identification becomes so severe that he forgets his mundane existence. Sometimes he considers himself as superior to all. Sometimes he defies God, even.

Alter ego is a close friend who is very like oneself. They may be class friend. They may be glass friend of a night club. Class friend may be separated but glass friend never. Such two souls go everywhere together. They are forever. They are made for each other or mad for each other or both simultaneously.

Ego trip is a trip, or experience, that gratifies or indulges the ego. It is an act, project, etc. undertaken to boost one's own image or good opinion of oneself or devoted entirely to one's own interests or feelings. Such trip is an activity done for one's own pleasure or satisfaction, and usually to make one feel more important, etc than others. The charity work of a philanthropist is just one big ego-trip. Such a Samaritan enjoys intense heavenly delight from this trip. He considers it as the repayment of debt towards humanity. Thus he discharges his social responsibility in such a unique way. It is his self-less venture. But a politician starts this trip to achieve political success thereby future commercial gain in disguise of classical one.

Egocentric implies viewing everything in relation to oneself. Egocentric person considers only oneself. He knows how to serve and satisfy his ego by hook or by crook. He is so genius. He is so dangerous. He is self-centred. He is simply a selfish having complex mind. He is either dangerously brilliant or brilliantly dangerous or

both simultaneously.

Egocentric person or egocentric policy or egocentric attitude is a headache to the society. A character of any drama if portrayed as egocentric and self-indulgent may be the protagonist. Thus egocentric implies having or regarding the self as the centre of all worldly things. It is having little or no regard for interests, beliefs, or attitudes other than one's own. Egocentricity renders one blind as well as blunt also. Egocentricity is based on the belief that the world exists or can be known only in relation to the individual's mind.

Ego ideal is the part of the mind developed from the ego by an awareness of social standards. This ideal is a more or less conscious ideal of personal excellence toward which an individual strives. It implies the conception of a better or more successful future self, based on identification with parents or parental substitutes.

Egotism or egoism is the practice of thinking and talking too often or too much about oneself. Childish egotism renders an adult a laughing stock and a person of hatred and avoidance as well. Egotism is constant, excessiveness and objectionable reference to oneself, in speaking or writing thereby boastfulness. Egotism is generally considered more opprobrious term than egoism.

Egoism is the tendency to be self-centered, or to consider only oneself and one's own interests. It means selfishness. It is the ethics, the doctrine that self-interest is the proper goal of all human actions. It is the habit of valuing everything only in reference to one's personal interest i.e., selfishness. It is opposed to altruism. It is any of various theories that regard the ego as the starting point or basic entity in epistemology, ethics, or metaphysics. It is the view that each person should regard his own welfare as the supreme end of his actions.

Egotism and egoism both refer to preoccupation with one's ego or self. Egotism is the common word for obtrusive and excessive reference to and emphasis upon oneself and one's own importance, in conversation and writing, often to the extent of monopolising attention and showing disregards for others opinions. Thus egotism alienates all friends and well-wishers as well.

Egoism, a less common word, is used especially in epistemology, ethics, and metaphysics, where it emphasizes the importance of self. It is believed that the theory of ethical egoism is supported by psychological findings. Egoism implies pride. Antonym of egoism is humility, altruism, etc.

Egomania means psychologically abnormal. Abnormally excessive egotism means egomania that paves the way to be absolutely isolated. Two persons having egomania may or may not match. It is their whim that dictates and directs their movement. They are so unpredictable. But their predictions are flawless. Here lies their superiority and complexity as well.

Ego psychology is the study of the adaptive and mediating functions of the ego and their role in personality development and emotional disorder. It is an important branch that helps to solve the problems as are faced with, of the real world.

As per physics, when both centripetal and centrifugal forces are equal and balance each other then the object rotates. Similarly an egoist likes oiling and thinks sycophants will always move around him. Egotistic is pertaining to or characterised by egotism. Given to talking about himself he becomes indifferent to the well-being of others. Thus he is ill-famed as selfish, egoistic, vain, boastful and opinionated as well.

Inferiority complex renders one timid. A coward cannot shine in life. Superiority complex offers pride thereby paves the way for downfall. A person having proper self knowledge prospers easily. He becomes popular for his pleasing personality. He can conquer the head and heart of all. Thus he has many friends and well-wishers. An egoist cannot think of such popularity. He avoids everybody and simultaneously he is avoided by all. He becomes isolated. He is deserted. Thus his life becomes miserable.

Personality clashes occur when two or more people find themselves in conflict not over a particular issue or incident, but due to a fundamental incompatibility in their personalities, their approaches to things, and their style of life. A personality clash may occur in work-related, family-related, or social situations.

Ego clashes are nasty, destructive diseases that can harm businesses large and small. Many of us will have witnessed the symptoms. These can include one person deliberately failing to consult a colleague when they should, or failing to include them in group activity at work or after hours.

It seems personality conflict and ego clash are different. Personality conflict occurs when one person's style of behaviour or thinking differs from the style of another person. By contrast, ego clash could occur when both people have the same style of behaviour or thinking but each person thinks that they are better than the other person or need to gain ascendancy over the other person.

An egoist criticises others thereby warms his ego. He considers all as inferior. He is the practitioner of apartheid. He finds fault with others. He is so base. Hardly can he realise that others have already identified him as an uncultured and unsocial element. Nobody laughs for him. Rather everybody laughs at him. He considers himself as the only developed person around him. He considers himself only enlightened. And others are either undeveloped or under developed or merely developing persons. As such none will be able to touch his enlightened status till his death and after his death even. This baseless dream offers him brakeless enjoyment also. He finds no wrong in it. He does not and cannot bear any kind of criticism. Criticism of any kind hurts his ego. His ego prevents him from accepting any offer.

Modern nucleus family has become the victim of ego. A person may not be egoist by birth. But his status renders him to be an egoist. One may want to leave ego but ego does not want to leave its victim. A rich man may be egoist. If that person becomes poor then money can leave him but ego will not leave him. As a consequence of it, he cannot do any inferior job easily or freely.

The strategy of a wise person is to deal with "WE". The learned beats every body's drum except him. But an egoist deals with "I". He always beats his own drum only untiringly. He asks other to preach his name and fame. It is a risky game. Because the egoist takes credit in case of win. But he imposes discredit forthwith to the opponents in case of loss. As such everybody avoids such a harmful opportunist character.

A wise considers man not money. To the learned man is more valuable than money. Money has its limited exchange capacity. But immense is the power of man. Man can manage everything everywhere. Man can conquer the head and heart. But money cannot always show such expertise all the time. So the learned opts for man and leaves money. Through money all cannot be purchased. The learned knows man is forever money is not. Man stays. Money may not stay. Man keeps promise. Money being promissory note may not keep always its promise to the original owner.

Money keeps its promise to the bearer only. A pickpocket takes this advantage. Then money keeps its promise to the pickpocket, but not to the real owner. A rich person becomes egoist for having huge amount of money. A wise seldom becomes boastful. He never shows his richness either in knowledge or money. He imposes ego to the opponent. He seldom shows ego. But he bears ego of others.

Self respect and ego are not identical. The former one is too good and the later one is too bad. Self-respect asks not to lose identity thereby dignity. It seldom teaches to be proud. It never insists to keep and maintain distance from other inferiors. Rather it pleads to respect others thereby returns back the same through reciprocity. Its essence is live and let live. In reality most of the persons hardly can distinguish between these two emotionally driven traits.

Ego is baseless anger. An egoist hates an inferior person. Simultaneously he is afraid of a superior person. He is quite envious of him as well. He tries to be intimate with the superior one thus to be super. If he does not get the chance or does not become able to close with him he simply calls him an egoist and ill-fames him. The paradox is that an egoist does not know that he is another egoist.

Too much good and too much bad both are injurious. If anyone is too much concern about his self respect or dignity then it may turn him into an egoist.

Being too good is bad since too much of anything is bad. Sometimes, becoming too much concern about one's self-respect may hinder the relationship as well as the personality. He can't become

normal. It seems there should be an equilibration between ego and self-respect for maintaining the state of being perfect in life.

In reality one gets nothing if he becomes egoist rather he loses everything. None laughs for him, rather everybody laughs at him. It seems ego is a severe disease, rather a psychological illness. A person becomes patient if this illness lasts long. If self-respect renders one blind ego converts a brilliant into a blunt.

Conclusion

A wise can asses self correctly. A fool cannot. Similar is the case of an egoist who is overconfident. Due to wrong assessment wrong messages reach to all. It is derogatory in nature. It causes ill fame.

It invites ill fame. It disturbs. It creates distance. It diminishes good relation. The egoist suffers from superiority complex. He considers himself as uncommon. As such he keeps safe distance from common people lest he becomes common. This uncommon attitude causes his ultimate and untimely downfall. He thus experiences brutal laughter from all neglected persons around him. Here lies the lesson of hatred the outcome of ego enjoyed by the adamant egoist.

Reference

No reference, since the present article is an outcome of Creative Writing.

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