

Of Self-Respect

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Abstract

Self-respect is the outcome of cocktail of both pride and confidence. Pride goes before a fall. In contrast confidence saves from downfall. Someone can check pride. Someone can't. Common people belong to the second category. They muster strong in this type.

Keywords: Self-Respect, Pride, Confidence, Honour, Dignity

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

Self-respect is the pride and confidence in oneself. It is a feeling that one is behaving with honour and dignity.

A healthy level of self-respect enables someone to have the confidence to set firm boundaries. It means knowing what someone stands for and what his values are, and being accepting of both his strengths and weaknesses. Self-respect is an inner quality that each individual must take time to develop.

Self-respect means respect self. In doing this the person isolates him from others. It hurts them. If the person does not do it intelligently or tactfully then he will remain unattended in crisis period. Such a person is introvert. He is of reserve personality. He speaks less. Hears more. Protests most.

In the name of self-respect one must not keep always safe distance from the inferiors. He may avoid others around him for lacking in status. But he may help them whenever someone asks

for the same just to keep up balance. It is judicious to help voluntarily. It reciprocates in need. If, luck disfavours, then a person has to bow down to his enemy for help. None knows what is in the lot. But in most of the cases such a person is avoided by all since he avoids them. Such a proud man seldom thinks that all people do not get equal opportunity to attain success.

If an inferior person gets proper chance then he may be successful and sometimes may surpass the achievement of a superior one. A wide-hearted person becomes happy and appreciates the success of anyone. He becomes happier noticing the upliftment of an inferior person. He does not envy as common people do. That's why he is uncommon.

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If someone is physically fit, mentally sound and economically strong he becomes happy. The first two factors are responsible for offering confidence. The last one causes pride. But money cannot make all proud. Here education and culture act as brake. As such a wise never boasts of his knowledge as well as wealth. But a fool cannot control its emotion. Money renders it violent and vulgar as well.

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 dignity thereby identity. 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 reciprocation. 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 an 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.

Thus self-respect is the respect one has for himself, while ego is someone understands of his own importance. An inflated ego may be borne from too much self-esteem, or when someone realizes just how important and special he is inspired by mental imbalances.

Self-respect is good till it serves the purpose. It is bad if it does not serve the purpose. But to serve the purpose illegal or immoral path is not desired. Someone leaves self-respect to serve his interest. He leaves not when his interest serves not. Profit is his only single agenda. He seldom thinks for self-respect. He uses self-respect as merely a tool to realise his aim and ambition.

Self-respect cannot be achieved overnight. It is either inherited or acquired or both simultaneously. Good environment helps it to flourish properly. Good culture enriches it with perfection. Elite-class is conscious about it and its outcome as well.

Self-respect is meaningful when everybody respects the concerned person. Then it is his classical success. It becomes meaningless when the concerned person beats its own drum just to draw the attention of others. In such a situation none laughs for him. Rather everybody laughs at him. Then it is his artistic failure. This is the outcome of callousness. The net result is zero.

Self-respect is one kind of practice enjoyed by a status conscious person. It is good when it is within limit. This limit is to be fixed and agreed by the society seldom by the concerned person. Since it is qualitative in nature and depends on the concerned persons and their culture as well it varies naturally.

Self-respect does not mean to disrespect others. But some people do it intentionally. Problem arises when the concerned person demands and compels someone to respect him according to the norms and normals fixed solely by him. He cannot understand who is so callous to show adequate respect to his emotions. Self-respect is private seldom public in nature.

Self-respect demands honour. It expects dignity. It asks to keep safe distance. All these are the demerits of self-respect. In case of genuine person the question of demand for honour does not arise. People will honour him spontaneously. Noble deed and grand success confirm dignity. Then one should not run after dignity rather dignity runs after such a wise person. If malafide intention or aloofness is disclosed then the person will be avoided or deserted in distress.

Conclusion

The essence of self-respect sometimes is either misinterpreted or misunderstood or both simultaneously. It self-imprisons the concerned person. The person builds virtual wall around him so that none can be intimate. The person wants not to cross the self-imposed boundary. Also he wants not to see someone who breaks the barrier built by him. They say Rome was not built in a day. Similar is the self-respect. Here lies its uniqueness.

References

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

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