

SELF-RESPECT

"There is a portion of God dwelling within, and the God without recognizes Itself."

The vital core at the center of each being is the true Self, a very spark of the greater Divinity which ever yearns to reunite with the Whole. This vague longing leads man to seek in many directions for That which he knows is true, but can't quite remember.

Until the conscious part of man yields to the recognition of this reality of the God within him, and pays it heed and listens, he spends life miserably at war with himself, though he usually thinks it is fate or the world that's against him. Avoid those head-on collisions with yourself.

The only way you can find release from such a state is to stop fighting your very Self, and you get to know YOU. Stop resisting and start getting along with your-Self, know it as your point of contact with God. Making peace with God and with your Self is part of the same thing. And then whom shall you fight? It appears there's someone inside there you don't like.

You have to like and respect *yourself*. That doesn't imply pride or arrogance; an egotistical person doesn't necessarily like himself. He's so busy covering-up that he becomes dazzled and enamored by the false image he's projecting.

When you respect your true Self, you lay down in humility all outer personal idiosyncrasies which stand in the way between you and Reality. The false pretender of the personality-actor has had his say too long already, so he must stand aside for the true Lord to take over.

Ever inclined to underestimate our true selves, we think, "I'm so nervous, sensitive, quick-tempered, etc.," and identify our Selves with faulty attributes. But it is not so. These negative appearances are surface disturbances and operate only as we let them, even as clouds passing over the face of the sun. The sun is not changed or darkened by the clouds, only momentarily concealed from view. So, our true selves are not spoiled when overcast, just temporarily unseen.

The actual truth is that beneath all the fury, the shouting and the tears, we are gentle beings, loving and peaceful and harmonious.

Happiness, beauty, and goodwill -- these are the real but sometimes forgotten states of our being. That is truly YOU.