

PERSONAL EVOLUTION

Evolution implies movement from a less perfected state to a greater one. The purpose of personal evolution is to achieve increasing spirit dominance of the personality. Human existence is designed to facilitate this movement by providing a suitable environment.

Consider the following:

1. Is *courage* desirable? Then we must live in an environment which necessitates grappling with hardships and reacting to disappointments.

2. Is *altruism* desirable? Then life experience must provide for encountering situations of social inequality.

3. Is *hope* desirable? Then human existence must constantly be confronted with insecurities and recurrent uncertainties.

4. Is *faith* desirable? Then the mind must find itself in that troublesome predicament where it knows less than it can believe.

5. Is the *love of truth* and the willingness to go wherever it leads, desirable? Then we must grow up in a world where error is present and falsehood always possible.

6. Is *idealism* desirable? Then we must struggle in an environment of relative goodness and beauty, surroundings that stimulate the reach for better things.

7. Is *loyalty* desirable? Then we must carry on amid the possibilities of betrayal and desertion. The value of devotion lies in the implied danger of default.

8. Is *unselfishness* desirable? Then we must live with our incessant desire for recognition and honor. We could not dynamically choose the divine life if there were no self-life to forsake. We could never lay hold on righteousness if there were no potential evil to contrast with the good.

9. Is *pleasure* desirable? Then we must live in a world where the alternative of pain and the likelihood of suffering are ever-present possibilities.