

SOUL LIVING

The Beauty of Living as a Soul: An Essay

There is an old saying: "There are two kinds of people in the world, those who give and those who take." These words mirror a basic truth in the Ageless Wisdom teachings regarding the dual nature of human life on Earth. We can embody 'the better angels of our nature' by living as souls, or we can live according to the whims, desires, and appetites of our material selves.

Human beings have the potential to live in 'two different worlds'—the world of spirit or the world of matter. When we live as a soul, our primary motive will be to serve the Greater Good. Living as an ordinary human being, unaware of the higher self, the motive will be to serve oneself. We can choose to follow the path to higher consciousness, or we can continue living on the plane of the lower self—immersed in patterns that bring little joy or ultimate satisfaction.

The perils of living for the lower self, caught up in the lures of the plane of matter, have been described by knowers and seers through the ages. Living by selfish motives in a world of glammers and illusions leads inevitably to committing acts that have karmic consequences. The great Bard, William Shakespeare, alludes to the troubles caused by the bewitching powers of matter in "The Song of the Witches" in *Macbeth*. They stir 'the pot of trouble' that awaits those caught in the spell:

"Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and caldron bubble.
Cool it with a baboon's blood,
Then the *charm* is firm and good."

Those who succumb to the lures of the lower self inescapably face 'double, double toil and trouble.' And yet, self-centered living is a

natural stage in the process of creating an integrated personality, which the soul will utilize when it awakens and pursues its higher purpose.

A Grand Design is presently being wrought out for the purpose of planetary evolution, through the interplay of spirit and matter, soul and personality. The integrated personality of humanity is represented by the astrological sign of Leo, which finds completion in the opposite sign of Aquarius, the Water-Bearer, where the soul of humanity is destined to realize its potential to pour forth 'waters of life more abundant' in the creation of a new world.

It is said that in the new era, the self-seeking persona is destined to be transformed into the Soul, the selfless server. As the path of ascent unfolds, we 'realise . . . that which we have discovered ourselves to be in Leo finds its crown in this dawning age of Aquarius. The separative individual consciousness now becomes the group consciousness soul in Aquarius'.¹ As the persona's desire to be the ruler of others fades away, the soul learns to be at-one with other souls and work toward creating 'life more abundant' for all.

Living as a soul means treating one another as souls in every aspect of our lives. Plato referred to the soul as 'a Divinity.' By realizing our common origin as 'sparks of divinity,' we learn to respect the divine self in those with whom we interact in the world. Becoming anchored in soul awareness, we also become sensitive to Beings of Light dwelling in the realm of the Soul behind the veil of matter, from whom wisdom flows into the receptive minds of seekers.

The aim of treading the path of ascent is to bring the wisdom of the soul into the awareness of the persona. We grow under the soul's guidance and learn to think things through in its light when faced with challenges. The more we become identified with our true self, the more it influences the way we live and the more we live under its authority. Decisions and directions in life become less influenced by those seen as authority figures more influenced by the wisdom of the soul.

Over time, as we become rooted in a steady-state of soul awareness, we increasingly embody the qualities of the soul – the love, the light, the joy, and the power – and we see life through a new lens.

“For I dipped into the future,
far as human eye could see,
Saw the vision of the world,
and all the wonder that would be.”

- Alfred Lord Tennyson.

1 Bailey, Alice A., Esoteric Astrology