

## Freedom from self-centeredness

Man's free will is a great treasure. Every person, regardless of color, religion or culture, desires to live a life in free self-determination. Selfishness, coercion, manipulation, war, and lack of respect are the shackles of freedom. Compassion and forbearance will promote one's own and the freedom of others. Individual freedom is the freedom of others. As man binds himself to the material world by his thought, he will reap the fruits thereof.

In the Bible we read:

*And he gave them this illustration: "There was a man whose land was very productive. He debated with himself, 'What should I do? I haven't enough room for all my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and I'll store all my wheat and other goods there. Then I'll say to myself, "You're a lucky man! You have a big supply of goods laid up that will last many years. Start taking it easy! Eat! Drink! Enjoy yourself!" But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night you will die! And the things you prepared — whose will they be?" (Luke 12)*

A spiritual man will seek liberation from worldly desires and attachments. He will realize that a man's satisfaction will depend on his orientation in life.

To this end, Jesus tells us the following parable :

*"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some seed fell alongside the path; and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky patches where there was not much soil. It sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow; but when the sun had risen, the young plants were scorched; and since their roots were not deep, they dried up. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. But others fell into rich soil and produced grain, a hundred or sixty or thirty times as much as had been sown" (Matthew 13)*

A man who sets his goals in simplicity and satisfaction of life, will limit his worldly desires and strive for inner peace and lasting happiness. This happiness can be found in wholeness and in the power of the divine. The Divine is love. This love unites all beings in all of creation. Each of us can experience this love. It may be through charity, compassion and forbearance, through giving and forgiving and by focusing the mind on God's heart .

Whether an individual will seeks his fortune in the world or in God's eternal loving heart is a personal decision. Freedom is a great treasure that can serve every man to realize the lasting peace by himself.

May we recognize and acknowledge the deep value of freedom in order to be happy forever.

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