

# When man lost meaning

## An essay on alienation

“Work is a reflection of the psyche and it's fruit reveals truth”

The individual ceases to exist if it is reduced to a cog in a machine, an automatized, industrialized and efficient tool, playing the very glue holding the fabric of our society together in loyal obedience. Serving the status quo, the individual can lose sense of what sets him or her apart from the rest and remains mediocre. Without following our own inner compass, we follow an external one. The spirit of what makes us Human with the capital H, is domesticated in these obedient ways. What can be longed for such a man who is corrupted from his spirit? What light is left in that sorrowed life? When the interest becomes ego rather than psyche, our lives will be polluted. Alienation is like having a dirty river, giving you a hard time to see yourself. However, in moments of silence, the dirt sinks and opens up a brighter perspective on who we are. This clarity and awareness holds the potential for regeneration.

In a society where the common theme is based around industrial systems, we dehumanize that spark which makes us shine as far distant stars in the depths of the void. In where the void is the machine driven society, and the stars its people, are the people not its shining light? The cogs are like asteroid belts, circulating around the gravitational pull of Mars and Jupiter, fragmented and violated into bits of ashes, no light is left in them. In their darkness rests the moment for nurture and nature, for destruction and creation. In their dirt they might grow into strong oaks, nothing is lost in the workings of the psyche.

The asteroid belt is like the workings of the psyche. As long as the psyche is fragmented and fractured, we are reduced to cogs that gravitate around a stronger compass than our own. Rather than we are managing the ego, is the ego managing us. It is then that we gravitate around the pull of the system, rather than our own centers and compasses. Heavily imprinted by the system is the individual given a label, a meaning, an identity, an ego. It is hard to even call this still an *individual*, since it is the exact opposite of what it means to be *individuated*. The word stems from *in = not* and *dividuus = divisible*, suggesting that the individual cannot be divided or fragmented. The whole purpose of being an individual indicates that the individual remains as *whole and united* as possible to oneself. To be individuated is then the journey of remaining oneself in a world that is trying to make you something else, to bring back our 19<sup>th</sup> century poet Ralph Waldo Emerson. To be estranged from oneself, an alien to one's own knowing, is to be a slave of your ego, a faithful servant of its complexities and its ways of surviving in a modern world. Therefore, I want to stress the importance of what an *individual* means to me. We are all to a lesser or greater extent fragmented because we did what we had to do in order to survive as infants and children. We are shaped, formed and put into being by the makings of our parents, societies and environment, and, therefore, the journey is to be individuated again, or better said, to be *whole again*. Shedding its skin from the wounds of the past, is the individual reborn into self-awareness and serenity.

The true nature of human beings is beyond the layers of persona, imprint and fear, it is the true gem within the dirt. A diamond waiting to be exposed to the illuminating gaze of the sun. A crystal of potential lays within us all, bursting of radiance when exposed in our lives. These are *Lumen beings*, beings of light, who are aware they are in human form, made from mud, dust to dust, carriers of greater things. Creative powers regenerated, intelligence increased, gifts found and purpose sought is the individual ready to give one's gifts and redeem one's society.

Below you see a diagram how *an individual* can have a symbiotic relationships with ones community. There has to be mutual exchange with the creative giving of the individual and the receiving of the people to bridge the two together. Within this framework we honor individuality and differences of personality, while at the same time remaining a sense of oneness with the greater whole. In seeking unity within diversity the individual does not have to conform oneself to the status quo in order to hold ones society together. By using best of both worlds, we live in unity while operating as self-realized individuals. A mature (Latin; *maturus*) individual is as the word suggests; *ripe or in season*, meaning that one is ready to produce fruit to nurture others. Ones cup is spilling over with gifts that can contributes ones society and redeems its dysfunctions and needs.

“Individualism has nothing to do with egotism, it has everything to do with compassion, contribution and actualization”

