

## Creativity

Humans are born equal, but we are also born different. We are born **human**, born of our parents, the bonding of opposites from which we arise. Being born human does not guarantee our humanity. We are still like soft clay and can be moulded into a predictable animal, an exploitative asura, an addictive preta, or a violent hell-being.

Our **humanity**—our basic culture, morality and compassion—is mostly learned. Our parents are our very first teachers of our humanity. When they humanize us thus, we are deeply grateful to them. Then, they have not only given us a human body, but also humanity, a human heart.

### INDIVIDUALS

Despite our equality as humans and our development in humanity, we all can and must grow into **individuals**. In other words, although we are born equal, we also have the potential to be different—to be ourself. In fact, it is this difference that make us truly human.

If we are born equal and remain the same, then, we are still **animals**, identical and predictable members of a tribe. We are then led and controlled by a single leader, and we act as a herd or tribe. Our mind is that of a crowd: we have no heart of an individual. This is a fearfully familiar way of religions that want us to have full faith in a single embodiment of power, and to fear and follow the shadow of that power here and hereafter.

### INDIVIDUATION

On the other hand, **individuation**—the process of becoming a true individual—starts when we begin to see differences in us and in others, and to accept, even celebrate, them. We are humans when we are allowed to have such differences. Such differences, however, must be natural. For induced or forced differences are the same as tribal identity.

As we **individuate**—grow up—we begin to discover that we have likes and dislikes. We discover ways of expressing such likes and dislikes. We do not like pain and suffering; we love truth and beauty. But not everyone of us see it this way at once. Given the human space, we simply act and react according to how we feel about things, and how we are allowed to feel, to learn for ourself.

### THE ARTIST

Given this free human space, we cultivate **creativity**. This is our propensity to shape, use and grow our ideas of things. These ideas are but pages in our book of creativity. They are the changing views we have of things that inform and inspire us—they help us grow out of the crowd of certainty to awaken in the space of possibility.

Our creativity cultivates the Artist in us. An Artist is one who sees truth and beauty, the true reality in how the world works. Not all Artists are created equal: they are powerfully shaped by their senses, which are their tools of expression.

As an Artist, we are ever in love with what we see, hear, smell, taste and touch. How good an Artist we are depends on how well we experience these senses, and how well we express ourself to move others to joy.

## JOY

**Joy** is the offspring of the marriage of truth and beauty. The more our mind and heart are unified in our expression of these sense-experiences, the closer we are to the **truth** of reality and the greater the **beauty** we express of them.

The greatest creativity of the Artist comes from his ability to see change and uncertainty, and the willingness to accept this **impermanence**. Artistry is not a given. It is how we respond to what our senses present before us. No two moments of such experiences are the same. But we can only capture the moment—this is the root of truth and beauty.

## ONLY CHANGE IS CERTAIN

This precious present moment is the door that opens us up into a boundless space of imagination and vision. We can only imagine what we cannot know. We have to suspend all knowing. For, knowing is the language and words of the physical senses. To truly imagine, we need the vision of boundless truth and beauty, we must **feel**, directly experience what is before us.

There is only one thing that is really before us when we feel, when we directly experience true reality: **change**. Change is the law of all realities. The Artist is able to see this change; he accepts this change. This is what brings him infinite joy. The joy comes from his ability and willingness to free himself from the prison of his senses. Only then, he is able to understand and experience what is truth and beauty beyond time and space.

## LET GO OF CERTAINTY

Artistic creativity requires the courage to let go of certainty. Even the most precious of what we are—our **breath**—lacks certainty. We breathe fast, we breathe slow, sometimes deep, sometimes shallow. Only one thing is certain. What we breathe in we must breathe out again. In this understanding, we will see the truth of beauty that makes us a true Artist.

Cultivate the courage, the heart, to let go of certainty. Therein lies the path of truth and beauty.