

Character and personality



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Character and Personality Character and personality are distinct levels in the evolution of the human being. When people display nice behavior, we say they are presentable. At the next level, when they have character, they can accomplish something. At a further level, being endowed with 'personality, they can create something original. When a person has developed character, he can accomplish something by himself. Character is organized in the mind. It has a memory and never forgets.

When the essence of the vital experience which is behavior is received in the mind and rganized well so that the mind accepts that as its central direction, then it becomes character. Character is a personality pattern. A large number of traits and tendencies tend to occur together in a pattern that we call character. Lack of character is also a personality pattern. Again, a number of traits and tendencies tend to occur together in a pattern that we call lack of character. A man with character fits into that level of society to which his character has risen.

If he has a noble character or a weighty character, he may be a philanthropist or a CEO. If he has a character but his nature is small, he can organize and raise a family successfully. A person with character can establish his own business, raise a family, and accomplish a substantial work in the society. These are all things that many people have done. There are already a thousand businesses; one more will be established. A person with character can accomplish and do what has already been done before.

When the mind comes into play, it generally acts on an opinion or bases itself on an idea. It tries to understand and begins to think and organize

itself. The vital does not think, it responds to the situation, but the mind listens to an idea. On the basis of this idea, the mind organizes its values. The mind gives its sanction to certain behaviors which it has accepted as right. This behavior then becomes a pattern. The essence of that pattern is based on respectability, on social values. The mental understanding is based on the idea that what is valuable must be respected.

Once the mind accepts this, every behavior will be directed by that characteristic. If a mother teaches her child to be polite to his grandfather, the child does not know it should also be polite to his uncle. If the child's mind, which is capable of understanding, receives the essence of this pattern of politeness towards elder relatives, the pattern becomes continuous and his mind accepts it as a general direction. Children should be polite to their elderly relatives. This one idea becomes a guide for all of his behavior, which becomes character.

That is called self-direction. In other words, the behavior of the child, the emotional impulses is guided by the mental understanding which has accepted the value of polite behavior towards elder relatives. What is personality? Character is necessary to achieve something in society, but when something has to be created anew, personality is needed. Where character may hesitate to attempt something completely new, personality will not. Personality can accomplish something original, whatever the field is. Personality is deeper than character.

It does not confine itself to an organized expression as character does. Character needs the support of the social and psychological milieu. Because

mind is a narrow organism which functions on thought, it draws its values from the general level of thought in the society. Something in the person feels safe in that climate and then the mind understands, the heart is able to be enthused about that understanding and the body is able to work. Usually when mind has to think of something original, it begins to shake.

Personality cannot be centered in the mind. It does not care whether anyone else has attempted a certain work before. It has the initiative to start a fresh work in a new field. Personality does not require the extraneous support of the social sanction. After it has understood and the mind has consented, it has the imagination to give a mental motion to that consent. Once the mind is able to visualize something in its own imagination, the heart does not hesitate to release its enthusiasm for the accomplishment of the work.

The support for the work comes from the Being which is above the mind. If the mind is clear and the Being supports, it doesn't need the support of the society. That is the difference between character and personality. Character is an efficient mental organism functioning within the social fabric of accomplished levels. Personality is an energy which comes from the Being, able to understand on its own, be enthusiastic on its own and be a trail blazer for the society.

Whether the field is in literature or scientific discovery or in industry or in founding a college, this is the basic difference between character and personality. What are the requirements of character and personality? Character cannot include personality, but personality must include the capacities of character and not be limited by them. Character requires

understanding, strength of will, perseverance, and energy. Ideas are potential, powerful and supported by the society. The capacity or the mind to act on an idea gives you character.

All men of high character will have strong, good opinions. But the understanding of character is limited because it understands only what everyone else has understood. Mind acts according to fixed habits and preferences. There are great men of very high character. Their preference is always for refined living and their habits are good habits. Their mental constructions are of a high level of accomplishment. But they are bound by their opinions. What personality requires is pure understanding, independent of a second person.