Comparison

Question: But for fear, we would have no respect for our parents. How can you say fear is destructive?

Krishnamurti: Do you respect your parents out of love or out of fear? I am saying, ‘How can one have respect if there is fear?’ Such respect is not respect at all; it is an apprehension, a fear. But if you have love, you win respect, whether it is your father or the governor or a poor coolie. Is that not simple? Respect born of fear is destructive, false, and has no meaning.

Question: Why do we feel a sense of fear when we do not succeed?

Krishnamurti: Why do you want to succeed? You do something, and in itself it is beautiful it is sufficient. Why do you want to have the feeling that you have succeeded? You have pride, and then you say, ‘I must not have pride.’ Then you try to cultivate humility—which is all absurd. But if you say, ‘I am doing it because I love to do it,’ then there is no problem.

Question: What are the qualifications of an ideal student?

Krishnamurti: I hope there is no ideal student. Look what you have asked! You want an ideal student; you picture his image, his ways of behaviour, his ways of conduct, and you want to imitate him. You do not say, ‘Here I am. I want to find out about myself. I want to find out how to live, but not according to a picture.’ You see, the
moment you have an ideal, you become false; you say, ‘How wrongly I have been brought up!’ The ideal becomes much more important than what you are.

What is important is what you are, not what the ideal is, not the ideal student or his qualifications. You are important, not an ideal. In understanding yourself, you will find out how false these ideals are. Ideals are the inventions of the mind which runs away from what the thing actually is. What is important is not an ideal but to understand what is. There is a beggar. What is the good of talking to him about an ideal? You have to understand him, to help him directly. The ideals of a perfect society are all fictitious and unreal, and it is the old people’s game to talk about these ideals. What is is the actual, and it has to be faced and understood.

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