
WHAT IS PERSONALITY?

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Saturday, 23 August, 2003, Revised 20 January 2010

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This essay discusses the nature of the human being and the human quest for eternity. It focuses on personality, its characteristics, and how to develop it.

A CONTEXTUAL FRAMEWORK

I introduce this essay on personality by declaring that the question as to what constitutes personality comes from the bigger question of what constitutes a human being. I will take up the specifics of human constitution later in greater detail. For the sake of brevity I shall now merely summarize them. A human being consists of the following:

1. **Body** - genetic entity that evolved from original micro-biotic forms millions of years ago
2. **Mind** - mechanism for storing, reviewing, and responding logically to pictures
3. **Spirit** - mind-related spirits of intuition, courage, knowledge, counsel, worship, and wisdom
4. **Personality** - the human being's immutable identity, and a gift bestowed by the Universal Father (God) near or at the time of birth

5. **Soul** - the superhuman counterpart comprised of experiences of spiritual value in the human's life
6. **Mystery Monitor** - a pre-personal spirit fragment of the Universal Father himself that indwells the human mind from the time the human first exercises moral will

While items 1, 2, and 4 are so obvious as to be axiomatic, you may feel a tendency to argue about the others, which, although powerfully evident, are not at all obvious. It would be a gross digression to explain, justify, or prove 3, 5, and 6 in this essay. Therefore, for the time being, please assume them as being both true and relevant.

This article answers the question "What is Personality?" I have provided the above listing only as a framework in which to consider the relationship of personality in contrast to other constituent elements of a human being.

THE NATURE OF PERSONALITY

I claim it impossible precisely to define personality, other than to say it helps people identify a person. We really do not know what personality is, but we do know of evidence that it exists.

When most people talk about someone's personality, they refer to that evidence. They seem to mean it as a kind of quality or entity a person possesses. Such people will say "She has a good personality", or "He has the personality of a garbage truck," neither of which explains much about the true qualities or nature of the person.

You do not "have" or "possess" a personality as though it were an artificial entity. You ARE a person. Your personality has a set of characteristics by which others can identify you as a unique person, individual and different from every other person in the universe of universes.

In addition, your personality does not consist of a social veneer, a "persona" you show to others so you don't have show them the real you. You, the person with characteristics of your genuine personality, are the real you.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONALITY

You have an identity unique in all the universes. Regardless of how similar your personality might seem to others, no other precisely like yours exists. The following characteristics enable one to identify personality:

1. **Self-Consciousness** - Sense of Self, aware of feeling aware
2. **Morality** - able to make moral decisions
3. **Relationships** - able to communicate thoughts, ideas, and ideals knowingly with others
4. **Love** - able to desire to do good to others
5. **Religion** - able to become devoted to supreme values
6. **Divinity** - able to crave, seek, find, know, and become like God.

Life challenges every person with a purpose: to develop a majestic and well-balanced personality.

Note: visit <http://bobhurt.com/articles> for other articles like this.

To explain a bit further, I shall treat each of those in greater detail:

1. **Self-Consciousness** - only humans and higher-ordered creatures possess this characteristic. Dogs, cats, and other lower ordered creatures have no self-consciousness or awareness of awareness – they do not actually know they exist. Considering your own awareness, you get the notion of yourself as an everlasting being, quite aside from your body. You never feel conscious of any sensation of having aged, even though you can see the evidence of the aging process. Feeling self-conscious imposes a kind of cosmic obligation to expand the quality and quantity of self of which one has awareness.
2. **Morality** - Only a person can make moral decisions. Morality means deciding to do either what one considers right or what one considers wrong. Humans can make moral decision, but lower ordered creatures like dogs and insects cannot because to them anything they do seems right. A child first exercises moral will at about the age of 4 or 5. At that age he begins to realize some choices seem right (true, beautiful, good) and get approval from people, while other choices seem relatively wrong (less true, beautiful, or good) and result in disapproval from people. And at that point humans begin to evolve a system of ethics, the contemplation of optimum survival for one's self, family, group, all of humanity, all of life, the physical universe, and eventually the spiritual universe and God. The maturing process makes the human's ethical awareness extend outward from the central self toward the First Source and Center of all reality. In the process, humans must ever more finely tune the morality and ethics of their decisions and actions, until the central and outer extremes meet and become unified – the human becomes like God.
3. **Relationships** - Only a person can knowingly communicate thoughts, ideas, and ideals with other persons. In the process of communicating in such a manner, human beings evolve relationships. All relationships on this world serve as training for more profound relationships we may have as we traverse the circles of eternity after the death of our human bodies. A person can eventuate no relationship more ultimate than the relationship with God.
4. **Love** - Love means the desire to do good to others. Only a person can truly love another. Animals may feel affection or loyalty, but they can never truly love. The maturing process makes a person crave *loving* relationships as the only valuable kind of relationship to have. The amount of love one exchanges with another determines the sense of value with which one regards their relationship.
5. **Religion** – Religion means devotion to supreme values. Lower-ordered creatures cannot consider or recognize values. In a person's quest for ever more valuable experiences, the person ends up in the presence of God. Why? Because that consists of sincerely pursuing true values involves loyalty to truth, beauty, and goodness, the highest values achievable by the human personality. You express the pursuit of those values through acts of love, mercy, and ministry.
6. **Divinity** – Divinity means godlike in quality. Only a person can crave to know God and become like him - to seek, find, know, and love God. Interestingly, a person becomes devoted to the quest precisely to the extent that person demonstrates the nature of God to others. One's craving to become like God makes one seek to know what God desires for one to experience and

accomplish in life. While God has a different destiny planned for each person, he has a common plan for all people – to develop a majestic and well-balanced personality. People who pursue this purpose with courage and unbending intent eventually become like God.

PERSONALITY - WHAT GOOD IS IT?

Now that you know the characteristics of personality, you could wonder "So what? What good is it?"

You could look at your personality as a bundle of cosmic muscles. If you exercise each one of the muscles in the bundle, then each of the muscles will get larger and be able to do more work. Have you ever met a person who seemed to have a big and irresistibly good personality? You could say his personality had real muscles.

Since you are living on this world, pursuing your goals, adapting to circumstances around you, and striving to progress, it helps if you have a good bundle of cosmic muscles to help you out. With a replete and powerful personality, you can accomplish much more than you otherwise could, and you can have a much better quality of life.

In fact, you could rightly say that developing a powerful personality, a well-balanced and majestic personality, IS the purpose of life. Life's purpose challenges every human being to develop such a personality, and that happens only through relationships with other persons.

You might consider the poignant notion that if you do not work to achieve that purpose, you might end up with no personality at all. Possibly, you either **use** it, or **lose** it. While that might not constitute the absolute truth, it behooves everyone to behave as though it does. Our creator bestowed upon us the marvelous gift of personality. It elevates us above animals and other lower-ordered creatures. It constitutes the one and only characteristic of a human being that allows the human to feel gratified with life.

You can identify majesty by a person's sincere devotion to the pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness, manifested in love, mercy, and ministry. The well-balanced person spends time and energy on the above personality characteristics in relative proportion, or balance. And the chief character trait of the majestic person consists of the continual, affectionate, wise, and patient delivery of unselfish loving service to fellow persons.

Note that you could equate a person to a human because most people have never seen or experienced a relationship with a non-human person. We read stories in holy texts about angels, demons, and a variety of celestial beings, but who today actually sees them? The stories make it obvious that they have personalities, and that we can develop loving two-way relationships with many of them, including with God. For that reason, I prefer to refer collectively to us people and them as "persons."

DEVELOPING YOUR PERSONALITY

Now comes the fun part – change from how you seem to how you want to seem, and to make the way you seem become the way you are, and vice versa. Even people with well-developed personalities can develop more and better.

DEVELOPING A MAJESTIC PERSONALITY

Majestic means having a godlike quality of grandeur, nobility, and dignity. Synonyms include: magnificent, grand, glorious, dignified, distinguished, noble, royal, queenly, kingly, princely, lordly, stately, splendid, imperial, marvellous, impressive, elevated, exalted, awesome, imposing, regal, superb, lofty, monumental. The concept of developing a majestic personality correlates to the concept of bodybuilding. One simply cannot achieve it without focus, determination, discipline, energy, and work. The end result, self-mastery, justifies the work.

You learn about majesty through philosophy, a love of wisdom. You garner wisdom by life experience. Philosophy attempts to codify and preserve wisdom for future generations. Majesty constitutes the entire end purpose of philosophy. Always compare any philosophy to the above meaning of majestic. If the philosophy leads you to majesty, then you have a sound philosophy.

Personality majesty constitutes a function of sincere devotion to supreme values. The ability to access accurately what does or does not have value comes from studying philosophy and through experience – living the truth. Without experience and work, one cannot at all develop a majestic personality. To develop a majestic personality, therefore, a person must strive for the highest ideals in developing the personality characteristics, and the person must live sincerely according to those ideals.

For example, it does not suffice for you to make merely moral decisions, doing what the society believes right. In the making of those decisions, you ought also to make the most ethical choice. Sometimes that seems difficult because the best choice could injure people. Normally, injuring others does not constitute a good choice, but no alternative exists but to kill a thousand people, then injuring a few becomes the most ethical choice. Making such difficult choices while adhering to rules of noble, dignified, grand, and divine personal ethics actually builds moral muscle.

The development of a majestic personality becomes like building physical muscle and physical skill together. The muscle gives you strength to do physical tasks others cannot do, and the skill allows you to do them adroitly. Exercising the characteristics of personality gives you bigger cosmic muscles and improves your skill at using them.

DEVELOPING A WELL-BALANCED PERSONALITY

I have touched on the concept of well-balanced personality, but I think it worth expanding a bit. "Balance" means similarly powerful or capable in each of the characteristics of personality mentioned above. It means not focusing on and exercising one while neglecting another.

You cannot **passively** develop a balanced personality. You must do it **actively**. To "develop" means to spend time, energy, and/or attention improving one or more characteristics of personality. If you do not spend time, energy, and attention using and exercising the characteristics of personality, then you will not develop much personality.

If you do spend time, energy, and attention of one characteristic and neglect another, you will become somewhat lopsided and freakish. For example, suppose you spend all your time contemplating your own awareness, and totally ignore loving others. You will seem like a spaced-out mystic to others around you. Or suppose you spend all your time pursuing values, and as little as possible making moral decisions. You

will become a moral weakling, albeit brilliant in your assessment of what seems valuable and what seems worthless.

You can develop balance in your personality if you make a list of the above characteristics, and while not ignoring any of them, focus on just one each day. On Sunday, for example, you could follow tradition and focus on seeking, finding, and knowing God. On Monday, you could focus on loving others, and so on. You could keep a kind of focus logbook, and record your considerations about each of them as you cognize about them. And of course you can take a day off from any focus every week.

You could set specific goals in each of the areas, just as you would with other undertakings in life. For example, you could have a goal like this: I will consciously put myself into the position of facing tough moral decisions every Wednesday. For some people that becomes as simple as deciding to floss one's teeth before going to bed. For another it could require one to arise an hour earlier to do some physical exercise so as to get in better shape.

Wonderfully, **working** to develop a well-balanced personality invigorates and revitalizes you with power in other areas of your life. You become able to accomplish more than you ever could before. You feel more at peace with yourself and others around you.

The need to develop a well-balanced personality can make conscientious people outgoing, outreaching, working, striving, achieving, and interacting with others. It makes relationships dynamic, alive, and inexpressibly gratifying!

THE QUEST FOR ETERNITY

One cannot help wondering what God has in store for us. We learn, grow, develop our personalities, knowledge, skill, understanding, and power, for what? I have used the muscle-building metaphor for a reason. Apparently God plans to use us for tasks that require monumental spiritual power – personality muscle. Because he has given us growth potential that we cannot fathom, it seems reasonable to conclude that he wants us to become so much more like him that we can function in his stead in the future.

I have read that a spirit fragment of God himself, a “mystery monitor,” indwells our minds and leads us toward our eternal destiny superconsciously. If so, we definitely have the opportunity not only to become like God but to function in an eternal partnership with him, to prosecute his divine aims for the universe.

I like to think of myself going on missions with God inside me as a constant companion and guide to the far flung reaches of the master universe of space and time, even to the reaches of non-time on the remote border of eternity. Perhaps you and I shall someday reign on a world similar to our world of today, as God's ambassador to the evolving people there. Perhaps they will look upon us as divine beings who have come to show them the path to salvation, eternity, and becoming like God.

Surely that task will take enormous spiritual muscle. And developing that muscle certainly will take work, discipline, and determination. It won't seem easy to us, just as it does not seem easy now.

But we must do that work. If not us, then who? Who will save the people on other worlds at the edge of eternity and show them the nature of a loving God? For us to accomplish that, we must fulfill our purpose on this world – we must develop a majestic and well-balanced personality. And we must do it now.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Personality has six characteristics: self-awareness, morality, relationship, love, religion, and divinity. These characteristics separate humans from animals. They also grant human beings the capacity to survive mortal death, particularly if the human develops a well-balanced and majestic personality.

It should be obvious what will happen to the person who accumulates so much power of personality by continuous and rigorous exercise of those characteristics. A kind of new being begins to synthesize, a being with the quality of divinity. If the soul becomes the transcript of the personality's experiences of spiritual value throughout life on earth, then developing a majestic and well-balanced personality provides the mechanism for **becoming** one's soul. The soul becomes therefore, the vehicle of personality survival.

Since God himself bestowed personality on us as a gift, the balanced and majestic personality becomes man's contribution to that gift. In other words, it becomes a gift of man back to God, and it sets the stage for a growing partnership between man and God throughout the vast reaches of time and space, all the way to eternity.

How can any human being consider this without feeling excited to about living and eager to grapple with the difficulties of developing that personality?



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