

## Provoking the World

The world never attacks your True Self; it only attacks your Ego. And this is because your Ego is constantly provoking the world. Your True Self has no interest in the world, much less in provoking it.

Please imagine this scene. A man walks up to another and pokes him in the eye. The other man, angered by the assault, returns the deed and pokes him right back. The first man replies, "What did you do that for?"

This happens in your life everyday, but you may not even know it, or you may only see the horrific examples. You would be wise to see the great extent to which this is true. It can save you a tremendous amount of pain and suffering. Pain and suffering that you bring upon yourself.

Here are some examples.

It takes just a little awareness to see how much you love to talk about yourself. Your discussions with others are mostly just verbal competitions—*your* children, *my* children...*your* job, *my* job...*your* things, *my* things. No one wants to hear about *your* things any more than you want to hear about theirs, but you insist. In your mind what you have to say is more important.

In the midst of the conversation, you don't even hear what the other is saying because you are too busy thinking about what you will say next. If you do hear what they are saying, you are bored, even annoyed. But when you speak, you expect the other person to listen, and to somehow be impressed.

In some other conversation, you share some exciting news, *your* exciting news, that is. The other person looks less than completely impressed, maybe with an unconvincing smile—now you are bothered. Why are you bothered? Why did you bore that person to begin with? What made you think that your exciting news would impress them one bit in the first place?

This is self-inflicted pain. Can you see that?

Bragging. You should see that when you brag, no matter how cleverly you do it, you throw a challenge out to the world to see your brag and raise it another. You begin with the notion that the world will be impressed if they know more about you. It ends when they seem to be less than impressed or begin to compete with your bragging. You pay the price of being thoroughly disappointed, and possibly irritated.

In a different way of life, you can give up bragging and competing and in return you receive inner peace. Until you see the lack of reward in that behavior, however, that

is exactly what you will continue to choose for the rest of your life—and you will continue to pay dearly for it.

There are many ways in which you poke the world in the eye and do not even know it. You do it by way of interjecting your flimsy opinions, flaunting your perceived intelligence, and by other acts of self-importance. You insist that the world know who you are and just what you think. And it surprises you that they retaliate with the same.

On the other hand, you also invade the lives of others in self-deprecating ways; self-pity and insecurity being two perfect examples. In both cases you demand attention that would not ordinarily come your way.

Self-pity is an intense state of selfishness that continually pulls energy from those around you. It is impossible to be peaceful while in this condition. It has the opposite effect you intend. You think you are being humble, but you are truly being grandiose in this utter state of self-absorption.

Self-pity also manifests itself in feelings of “Why me?” Just asking such a question indicates that you have somehow come to the conclusion that you should be more protected from tragedy and misfortune than others. Why not you?

When miserable, you search for someone to blame. Sometimes it’s people, sometimes it’s institutions, and when all else fails you blame God. You believe someone else must be to blame. Is this not provocation?

You make your insecurity the world’s responsibility. You want the world to solve this problem for you. You want others’ praise and recognition to fill the hole you have dug for yourself. You look for it and you expect it. You even set up those around you to provide it. When you don’t get it, you feel slighted.

You provoke the world with your identities. You feel that you really *are* something. You give yourself labels. These labels apply to your character, to your talents or to your personality. These are very important to you, because you believe they define who you are.

Whatever your identities are, you covertly put people on notice about these things and you dare them to deny it. Sometimes you do it in how you look, sometimes in how you act, and other times in what you say. And when they don’t agree, you feel offended.

Your provocation of the world is far-reaching and self-evident. You will know this if you simply attempt to honestly see it. This must be done objectively, however, without further attempts to identify or compare with the problem itself. See it—that is all.

Even if you are not outward with your provocation, you must see that harboring anger, worry and fear has an offensive effect on the world. This is not your natural state, not as God has intended anyway. When you allow your Ego to take over and demand anything from life directly or indirectly, you provoke the balance of nature. You should not be surprised by the consequences.

Now you have a choice: to see the truth of this, or to remain convinced that this is not how you live. As you do this, please consider the current state of your life. Look at your worry, your self-pity, and your resentments. It would be an illusion to believe they are not connected to your own actions.

As you go down the path you will see this is true. At this point possibly all you can muster up is the willingness to believe it may be true, even though you don't see it at the moment. Willingness is a true form a progress. Seeing is the way to a better life.

Some may say that the luckiest people on earth are those who can't see the immense pain they are in, that ignorance is bliss. Do not perpetuate that lie. Pain hurts be it know or unknown. No one has ever done themselves any favors by ignoring pain. There is nothing more Spiritual than seeing pain as it truly exists. There is nothing more *un*-spiritual than to unconsciously ignore it.

What shall you gain from this very close look at yourself in reality? More than you can comprehend. You shall gain the world that was given to you in the first place—a world without worry and excitement. It is a world of ultimate Bliss. It cannot be said enough that a world filled with pleasure cannot even compare to one that is simply void of all pain. There is no comparison possible. A world without pain is God's intention for all of us.

You should also see this. God has already given you this world. God has given you everything you need to be happy. There is no waiting required. It is here. It is you who demand more and in doing so create pain. It is you who expects and loses that which you never had. It is you who believe you are more important than others and are shocked when the truth is revealed that 4 billion others share your earthly abode and all it has to offer.

Do not pray for anything to come. It is here. Pray instead that you will finally see it. Say your prayer in conscious awareness, for that is what prayer really is.

From this point forward, see that you can eliminate much pain by ceasing to provoke the world in the clever ways in which you do. See the real control you have over your life—this will be an amazing adventure I assure you.