

SELF-JUDGEMENT

Suppose I say, I am a failure, it is a judgement. A lot of people have this problem. Everybody has a judgement somewhere in a corner. I am a failure, I am worthless, I am useless, I am ugly. Even Miss Universe has this problem. You may wonder how. She is declared by a panel of judges to be the most beautiful woman. She is also crowned. All the newspapers and TV write and talk about Miss Universe. It means that the whole world has accepted her as the most beautiful woman. One cannot be more beautiful than that. Humanity has accepted her. Only Gods have to declare whether she is beautiful or not. Of course, she has to decide whether she is beautiful or not. We need not bother about Gods. In the eyes of Gods, everyone and everything must be beautiful. Therefore, only she has to accept herself as beautiful. Hereafter, this woman need not prove herself to anybody. So from the next day she can come out in a simple dress. She need not have any make-up. But I tell you, now she has more responsibility. Being a Miss Universe, she spends more time at her cosmetic table than she did before. She is Miss Universe, how can she come out like that without proper make-up? She is still not convinced that she is the most beautiful!

Everybody has a self-judgement. That is called *ahaëkåra*. It is always small. Until you gain self-knowledge, there is self-judgement. So what is a judgement? A judgement is based on some data, some evidence in a court of justice. Judges go purely by evidence. They have to be as objective as possible, keeping their subjective feelings aside. That is called a judgement. Knowledge is different. A judgement may be other than what the fact is. If your judgement and the fact happen to be the same, it is your luck. However, until knowledge takes place, it is a judgement.

Therefore, if you make a judgement about yourself, instead of realizing you are *ånanda*, which is the truth about the self, you are always going to judge yourself smaller than what you really are. If you are not the infinite, what are you then? You are finite. Then, what is the distance between infinite and finite? It is infinite. That is the problem. In the absence of knowledge of what you confront or deal with, you have to judge. You cannot avoid judgement. Nor, you can live happily with judgement. So you seek. That is the original problem of a human being. We want to prove ourselves better than what we think we are all the time.

This judgement is invariably based firstly upon our body and mind and then upon the body-related and society-related things. Therefore, in a society where cows are wealth, you must have a few cows. Only then are you rich. In a society, where power means something, you must have power. Only then are you a person of consequence.

When you say that you are a failure, on what basis do you say so? "Oh, I started a business and I lost the capital and a friend too". So, that particular undertaking was a failure. "Then I took up a job. There also I could not do well. That was again a problem".

