

How does the Centre approach the Inner and Outer Well-being of its Members?

In most organisations we see around us, there is always a tendency to sacrifice the individual for the collective unit. And this takes many forms. But the underlying principle remains the same. The organisation becomes self-centred, only looking at people as serving its economic or functional need, and paying only that much attention as is minimally required.

This is a danger that all of us can fall into, in subtle ways. The opposite perhaps is even more fatal, when the individuals sacrifice the collective good and growth to satisfy their own ambitions and greeds, whether for power or for money, and even a cursory glance at the present political situation in India is a sufficient example of this. The politicians have thrown the country into confusion and disarray, for personal profit.

In all organisations different shades of these problems do come up, and in that sense, The Gnostic Centre is no exception. For one, none of us are ready-made transformed beings, but are a group of youthful aspirants, and all the frailties that dog human nature are doubly present here. On being asked why there were such unregenerated people at the ashram, where one normally expects to meet saints, not people with difficult outer natures, The Mother remarked that the ashram represented a special concentration of the difficulties that beset ordinary humanity, for the goal was to change human nature. Saints and great men would not serve the purpose!

So how is this balance achieved between individual freedom and collective growth? This is achieved when the individuals base their growth and freedom not on their egos, but on their soul, and when the organisation or centre becomes an instrument for the expression of the free largeness and flowering of the soul in Man.

At The Gnostic Centre the focus is on inner growth of consciousness and the measure of this is the progressive change in our outer day-to-day work, attitudes and existence. Each individual is first a soul that has taken birth for a special purpose, to express a unique potential, and the Centre's activities and policies are governed by this truth first. This does not mean that one becomes a goody-goody and turns a blind eye to insincerity, lack of discipline and bad-will, but the attempt is to deal with these firmly, yet not lose the Vision.

Essentially the Centre is a space, an environment, a collective aspiration and collaboration to facilitate the integral growth of the individuals in harmony with the overall collective progress of the organisations, the Nation and the World.

- Ameeta Mehra
Founding Trustee & Chairperson
The Gnostic Centre