

# IDEALS



People believe in ideals and have faith and confidence in them because ideals are dependable and they last a long time. If honesty is one of your ideals, you give it a high priority in your thoughts and effort because you believe honesty is a virtue worth cultivating, not just this week of this year, but throughout your life.

My interpretation of ideals is your attitude towards life and how you aspire them. For instance, the person who seems to you an ideal man is represented by his way of handling himself, his spiritual qualities such as strength, courage, loyalty, generosity and sportsmanship. These are all the qualities in which you can put your faith. Of course, the person who you think is ideal today may not be so ten years from now, not because your ideals have changed, but because your understanding has increased. Your understanding of human values will forever elevate and so your interpretation of such values will change as well.

Broadly speaking, the desire to believe in something is a regard for that which lasts. But thinking about ideals or abstractions — Truth, Beauty, Goodness, and God — is not something that happens to us in childhood; it comes later in life. A desire to believe in something lasting eventually leads to an interest in ideas. Religion, which has to do with Man's relations to a Supreme Being is not very deeply understood by a small child because he is busy learning about his relation to the surroundings. Only after his initial curiosity about the surrounding world has

been satisfied to a large degree does his attention begin to shift to the ideas, principles, and meanings that rule that world. All these guiding principles will surely lead him to pursue the true meaning of survival and eventually to live by the path of righteousness.

In normal persons the desire to believe in something forever lasting — or to worship, in its broader meaning — grows as the years go by. When adulthood is reached in our bodies and mind, this desire has an important influence on our actions. As we grow older, we are likely to become more curious about the reasons behind the universe, about the nature of Beauty, Truth, and Goodness, and primarily, the nature of God and our relation with Him, our Greatest Friend of All. As we devote ourselves to the closeness of the grandeur of nature, we should also learn to shift our attention away from ourselves to others and away from material things to spiritual things, which are the highest ideals we should acquire.