

# The “I” of the Beholder

## A Guided Journey to the Essence of a Child

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*(Excerpt from the Introduction)*

### ***Introduction***

...Even as I hoped for a worldview that would be accepted by others, I worried that few seemed to share my goals, and I despaired that my dream might never be fulfilled.

Yet slowly, an unexpected light appeared on the horizon. Unnoticed by most, the first signs of change came with the millennium. I began to notice mysterious changes, at least in the environments that I am most familiar with. Many others, too, began to notice the increasingly frequent appearance of a new type of child. More and more highly gifted children came to our attention. Each amazed us with distinct cognitive and emotional characteristics and an apparent philosophy of life. As my book filled up with examples and experiences, I realized that children and their parents were changing both in their character and their attitudes.

...A major purpose of this book is to put the spotlight on the dichotomy between the goals of society and the goals of the Self, and the enormous impact of the conflict between the two. Society fails to recognize the importance of the Self, and as a result, society as a whole is typically puzzled by the mysteries of individual human behavior. Society tries to mold the Self toward its purposes. The human Self, on the other hand, is driven toward the protection of its integrity and unity, as well as its growth and development. Each living being has the power of an inner passion to make an impact on the world. Each human being also has his or her own “I,” which is the beholder, and fashions a passionate reaction according to his or her own vision. Our Selves are not governed by reason alone, but also by our passion and power.

In this book, I will examine this vision, this passion, and this power—the indomitable spirit of the individual “I” that is able to resist all so-called rhyme and reason in order to protect itself. Every detail of our lives is governed by this struggle for survival of the Self within the context of the universe. If we fail to understand the “I,” our limited point of view will cause us to inflict injury on each other’s Selves. In this book, I will describe the complexity of the Self as the source of all human behavior. I will try to outline the structure of the Self, its normal growth and development, and the role of interaction with other living things in this process. I see the Self as a unit within us, which includes input from the brain and all other functions of the body. This book will explore how the inclusion of the concept of “soul” or “psyche” or “Self”<sup>2</sup> can change the methods, priorities, and goals of society and parenting. This, in turn, could change how we view each child and ourselves and have an impact on our every action and reaction, whether in the boardroom, the bedroom, or the classroom.

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