

FIVE TERRIBLE MIDDLE-CLASS MALADIES

1) Middle-class people in India (as well as in most other countries across the world) want those material-realm "goodies" or "rewards" that they don't truly deserve.

Unlike most genuine achievers who unfortunately appear to suffer from "[impostor syndrome](#)" (or "[impostor phenomenon](#)"), most of the middle-class people want what they are not made for nor cut out to do. And the latter types want what they have not truly worked for.

Meaning, they -- the thick scum (majority layer) among the middle-class people -- want to grow and expand the wrong way.

That is, they are essentially a bunch of losers who want to convince/deceive themselves, and others, that they are **winners**.

So, losers' '*philosophy*' of life is to gain an undeserving, and unfair, advantage over others. Call such losers *genuine impostors*, if you will.

Such **losers pretending to be winners** are not to be confused with *genuine achievers (natural winners with a crimped or deficient self-belief)*.

How to recognize these parasite-like impostors among the middle-class people? Easy!

Typically, losers (who masquerade, or carry themselves around, as winners) adopt a way of living that has an easily recognizable pattern:

- zero risk
- grab all you can, with total focus on self ("I, me, myself, my and mine")
- play it safe; hold on to what has been secured already; consolidate
- grab more always, without ever digressing into areas unrelated to selfish interests or hectic, busy-busy routines of the rat race, because it's a game of 'the survival of the fittest' -- so, "mind one's own business" (selfish personal matters) all the time, no matter what
- conformism, spineless compliance
- sleep with the enemy, if it can further selfish personal interests
- never resist, oppose, question or defy, either directly or indirectly, the evil or bad authority
- get ahead -- never cooperate with, nor strengthen, any member of the peer-group, who should be used as a stepping stone to higher positions

- use-and-throw, manipulate, exploit, cheat, betray, back-stab peers, especially when you can bask in their reflected glory
- winner takes all (so win at all costs, either by hook or by crook)
- ends alone matter, not the means (*so losers don't have a sense of history, nor a global outlook, much less any inner moral compass or reference point for ethics; nor do they have any respect and appreciation for the symbiotic relationship that should exist between the part and the whole.*)

To be sure, there is no contradiction in what follows below:

2) The majority scumbags among the middle class want what they don't deserve – and they want it the easy way or through crooked, unfair, corrupt, questionable, insincere, dubious, or unholy means.

Most middle-class people, especially the majority impostor segment, receive some craved-for (but undeserving) early success in life either through "beginner's luck" or through sheer providence; either because of other people's kindness and generosity or through wrong/dubious means. Later, they refuse to use such early success as a springboard, foundation or starting point for real hard work, genuine growth, complete transformation; they don't put in adequate and sustained efforts to build on such early success for the right goals.

Instead, they mistake early success for true success, or tend to take it for granted, feeling a sense of entitlement.

Worse, they infer a wrong cause-effect behind their "success". They begin to believe use of wrong means has paid off, that it is okay to use wrong means. So, in pursuit of **more (and more)** "success", "rewards" or "dividends", losers (masquerading as winners) begin to tread the "grey zone" -- that thin, almost blurred, boundary which separates "good" from "bad", "light" from "darkness", "white" from "black".

Next, they decide to double down on employing wrong means, dubious methods, corrupt techniques, unethical strategies, insincere or dishonest ploys all the time, throughout their lifetime, confusing them for the authentic and right way to 'true success'. And they try to rationalize or explain it all away by invoking family compulsions, real-life practicalities, realism, etc.

And they persist with the wrong means even when it no longer produces the desired or hoped-for results. Worse, they don't even pause to review the means and methods that are failing over and over again, landing them in ever deeper, complex troubles.

Or, they settle for a humdrum, 'grey-zone' life of routines -- predictable, hectic, formula-like lifestyle patterns of the cut-throat 'rat race' characterized by the following:

- mediocrity, slow-burn, organism-level instinct for survival and self-perpetuation

- conformism, compliance, complacency, risk-aversion, non-committalism (vis-a-vis community)
- 'asset'-accumulation, crass consumerism, zombie-like 'lifeless life' devoid of vitality, life-force, sanctity and inner significance, but full of hot air, make-believe, pretense, delusions of grandeur, self-deceptions.

[The losers / impostors take and post lots of selfies and other inane, ego-gratifying content on social media; vicariously watch reality TV and other such mind-numbing, voyeuristic or addictive content, including live sports telecasts; enjoy or even take part in so-called talent shows for singing and dancing, etc; upload or share recordings of their perceived / imagined 'talent'; spend ill-earned money on branded clothes, branded accessories, branded gadgets, branded goods, branded products, branded services, branded technologies, or luxuries and acquired tastes beyond their ordinary means (like, say, expensive imported liquor or imported foods extracted through violent, cruel, inhuman methods -- to afford which, they amass wealth via unholy means, or by being minging-stingy in others areas of life); imagine themselves to be on a par with heroes, heroines and superstars by looking at their own images, videos shot with personal phone-cams ...]

- lack of proactive, conscientious, demonstrable resistance to both inner and external evil, as well as to **bad change** imposed by evil-minded people at the top; rather, instead of resistance, this: spineless, unthinking acceptance, compliance or embrace of such bad change
- convenient, 'diplomatic' resistance to, or avoidance of, **good change**
- preference for the known, the familiar ("comfort zone") and the status quo
- propensity to jump on the dog-eat-dog, frog-pull-down-frog bandwagon saturated with herd mentality, while always expecting others to take the initiative, make the first move, sacrifice. The set-off box below encapsulates the saturated form of shameless selfishness and exaggerated self-importance.

1) As COVID rages on savaging societies and economies alike as of April 2021, if you, *dear middle-class person in India (or any other country)*, feel that "others" – "masses", "crowds", "people", "public", "peer group" – should take the initiative for corrective measures, reforms, change, peaceful 'revolution', transformation, etc; if you believe that *they* should even undertake massive action, perhaps even sacrifice *their* lives, what makes *you* think *you* are not part of "people" or "masses"?

2) What makes you think you deserve to reap the benefits of efforts or sacrifices made by "others"?

3) What makes you think you are entitled to your own life and lifestyle, irrespective of (and insulated or exempted from) the goings-on in the larger

ecosystem, while you expect your fellow middle-class people / peers, or those above them (like leaders/officials), to work for positive change for your benefit?

4) What makes you think your life, your priorities, your pursuits, your selfish, self-serving interests, are somehow more important than those of "others"?

5) i) We mean NO offense to anyone here; rest assured, we don't mean to disparage any individual or group in particular -- but, let's discuss this issue dispassionately, objectively, in the context of the nature-nurture debate, shall we? **ii)** Are you sure you have to perpetuate your genes by reproducing, without sparing a thought for the larger ecosystem, the environment and community on which you and your offspring will have to depend anyway? **iii)** What makes you think your genes deserve to be perpetuated? **iv)** Have you [ever read](#) about "[dysgenics](#)" and "[Idiocracy](#)"? **v)** Why should the larger ecosystem enable you to perpetuate your genes and nurture your offspring when you don't believe in nurturing and protecting the ecosystem in a symbiotic way?

6) i) What is the economic and social value you and your family bring to the society's table anyway that others have to make efforts, even sacrifices, while you nurse the smug sense of entitlement to the fruits of their efforts? **ii)** Is the larger ecosystem getting justifiable and attractive returns on the "investment" in you and your family?

7) i) Do you really deserve a Jesus Christ, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Dr Martin Luther King Junior or a Potti Sriramulu? **ii)** What is the use of such people setting a personal example as well as sacrificing their lives for people like you?

8) If you are basking in the reflected glory of your employer (probably a big name, an MNC, a blue-chip company, a profitable enterprise, or prominent organization), are you sure your employer is really corruption-free, community-, environment- and planet-friendly, employing sustainable practices in both letter and spirit, in both fact and practice (not just the bullshit of make-believe media statements and press releases on CSR that exaggerate, misportray or misrepresent details while hiding truths)?

9) Do you really believe that just paying some paltry taxes and doing some skill-oriented job (*for what is most likely to be a corrupt, anti-people, anti-society, planet-destroying organization/employer*) somehow make you special, valuable and that *you* therefore deserve the "goodies" you assume the larger ecosystem owes you?

10) i) Do you really deserve your job, in terms of being the best person available/suitable for that particular job, and capable of not only performing in it optimally but also outperforming in that role? Or, did you land your job using unethical means, foul methods, fraud, "recommendation", or similar questionable,

insincere or corrupt practice like nepotism, favoritism, sucking up like a toady to higher-ups, misrepresenting facts, or through some sleight of government policy that bestowed unfair advantage and undue favour? **ii)** Are you surviving in your ill-gotten job / vocation that you are not fit for, through posturing, impostor-like make-believe acts, pretending to be that which you are not? **iii)** Even assuming you landed your job through the "proper channel", merit or through sheer luck, are you sure your heart, conscience and deeds are still clean, incorruptible? **iv)** Or, after landing the job, instead of improving and upgrading yourself by utilizing the opportunity / luck / grace bestowed upon you, have you compromised on good values and sold your soul to the Mammon, under the pretext of "practical" aspects of life, harsh realities of life, or due to greed, ego and arrogance? **v)** Are you just a middle-class mediocre person who never pursued excellence except putting in donkey's hours in your assembly-line kind of job (*say as a call center fellow, or back-end coding fellow / data analyst / business analyst, risk specialist, fund manager, bank executive, "presstitute", salesman, merchant, trader, broker, novelist, 'home-maker', researcher, street-level physician, businessman, etc*) to make "both ends meet"? **vi)** Do you falsely imagine you are a hero making a difference, and that your greed-, ego-, ingratitude- and insecurity-fuelled life has been a valiant struggle worthy of a Nobel prize?

11) i) Are you consciously aware of the "value system" you are using in your life? **ii)** Is your "value system" aligned with "cosmic laws" (*karma-dharma*)? **iii)** If they are not in alignment or sync, are you prepared to live your life if everyone else, too, disregards "cosmic laws" and employs your own "value system", or their own value system? **iv)** Are you prepared to live by and die by your "value system"? **v)** When was the last time you reflected on your own life, the critical-juncture choices and decisions you made and their outcomes? **vi)** When was the last time you updated yourself with mankind's real-life history and drew lessons from it in a conscious, deliberate way, so as to apply such self-drawn lessons and insights in your day-to-day life? **vii)** When was the last time you introspected about your life so as to review the consequences of disregarding or violating "cosmic laws" (*karma-dharma*) that hurt you as well as your family?

12) i) You assume the personal, health, social, financial and professional interests of yourself and your family are more important than others' as well as of the ecosystem's. That is understandable. But, are you sure your spouse / partner really loves you? **ii)** Does his / her heart beat for you really? **iii)** Do you really love your spouse / partner? **iv)** Is your marriage / relationship an unholy alliance of mutual convenience bereft of genuine, unconditional "love" and sanctity but shaped by tyrannical social customs, or pressure of expectations of your extended family/clan, or desire to be accepted as part of the "mainstream", or fear of social stigma that might ensue on defying traditions, or mindless, unquestioned conformism and compliance, or shameless, self-deceiving, delusional make-believe lived for social media and characterized by "let's scratch each other's

back"? **v)** Are you just an ATM (cash machine) for your children? **vi)** Are you just a bedroom-mate for your spouse / partner? **vii)** Do your children really look up to you? **viii)** Through your actions and choices in real life, have you set a personal example for your children (and grandchildren)? **ix)** Are you helping them find their calling? **x)** Have you instilled "good values" in your children? **xi)** Or, are their minds controlled by the ecosystem of culture, advertisements, mass media, entertainment, social media, online channels? **xii)** Are you imposing your own will, unfulfilled desires, demands, society's manufactured false expectations on them?

13) i) What exactly are you and your family chasing in life anyway while running the "rat race"? **ii)** Why is it important and for whom? **iii)** Would you run your race (or chase whatever that you are chasing) on some secluded island, cut off from the rest of the world, since you seem to believe you are an island and hence need not bother about the larger ecosystem? **iv)** If you think you are so self-important, and that your lives / genes are significant, and if you imagine that what you are doing (job / business / vocation / "service") is also important (for yourself and your family), why don't you visualize a scenario wherein you and your family happily retire to some secluded, self-sufficient, resource-rich, safe and secure island or a similar spot on a mountain or in a forest and live in a self-sufficient way, undisturbed by others, and fully dependent on yourselves, your talent, your strengths, your significance, and your merit?

- tendency to believe and take seriously ego-scripted, ego-gratifying (hence self-deceiving) narrative about oneself -- where (in that self-story) self is a hero / heroine / superstar... a victim of circumstances struggling against all odds and succeeding in spite of everything -- the self-deluding, imaginary "struggle" being a hectic, busy-busy, comfort-addicted, convenience-defined life full of selfish pursuit of personal interests, often in a thoughtless, unconscious way fit for an automaton / robot, or through unfair, undeserving, unholy, ill-earned advantage over others.
- Worse, they have the cheek and gall to think of those who made way for them, who helped them, who got cheated by them as 'losers'.
- Worst of all, driven by a vulgar (but unrecognized) sense of entitlement and smothered, suppressed conscience, they think the underprivileged, the oppressed, the exploited and the helpless are a mere fact of harsh life, little realizing they (impostors) are culpable for the mess directly or indirectly.

3) Middle-class people grab what they don't deserve by depriving others who truly deserve it.

Or, middle-class people 'help' themselves to what they don't deserve by stealing/usurping it from those who created it from scratch by dint of hard work, creativity, and imagination.

4) Middle-class people don't want 'really true success' either at the next higher level(s) or even at the so-called top level, which is there for the taking but they don't want to take it.

True mystery, if there ever was one!

'Really true success' either at the next higher level(s) or even at the so-called top level is something middle-class people should truly pursue and attain, which is their duty and responsibility ("*dharma*") to achieve; but they steer clear of it anyway.

Why? Because of the following reasons:

- They are afraid of really true, "top" success
- They lack confidence and faith in themselves due to ignorance (or lack of awareness or true information/insight on "top-level" success)
- They are intellectually, philosophically and spiritually lazy
- They are addicted to intellect-disabling or intellect-destroying addictions, vices or weaknesses like harmful substances (foods, beverages in solid, liquid or gaseous forms) or idiotic concepts, fantasies, escapisms, psycho-socioeconomic traps
- They are slaves of their ego / dark side / "lower self"
- They are scared of embracing change and lifting themselves out of their cocoon-like comfort zone created and preferred by their ego
- They wallow in mediocrity, avoid pursuit of excellence, resist self-upgradation and evolution as "change" is interpreted by their ego as "too much hard work", which is in turn labelled by the subconscious mind as "pain", which in turn triggers the primal or primitive "avoid pain and seek/reinforce pleasure" response.

The Western-type economic system of capitalism, characterised by the so-called free market enterprise, has trapped the majority middle-class people in an intellect-destroying, soul-degrading, self-perpetuating, addictive, and seductive vicious cycle.

That vicious cycle is like a matrix full of layers upon layers with inter-connected nodes, with nodes in each layer cross-connected to other nodes across the matrix. Here is an overview of the node-rich layers that comprise the matrix of vicious cycle:

- ego, hyper-individualism, arrogance, excessive importance for personal likes and preferences
- physical comforts, sense pleasures
- laziness, mediocrity, complacency
- greed, fear, insecurity, anxiety, neurotic behavior, stress
- selfishness, self-centredness, self-absorbed lifestyle
- crookedness, deceit, wiliness, wickedness, duplicity, two-facedness, hypocrisy, intransigence, recalcitrance, intolerance
- wrong use of (or excessive reliance on) 'soft skills' like soft-spokenness, sweet words, conformity, compliance, interpersonal charm, external 'politeness', fake diplomacy (non-committalism due to obsessive selfishness)
- incapacity for self-introspection, busy-busy hectic routines, belief in 'survival of the fittest', 'get ahead of others in the rat race by hook or by crook', cut-throat competition with peers
- indifference, apathy, non-committalism, make-believe, fake or hidden agenda-driven approach to community, society, environment; lack of proactive, fearless resistance to evil
- spinelessness, obsequiousness, dull conformism, 'yes-sir' syndrome / 'yes-madam' syndrome, 'no-problem' syndrome
- treachery, betrayal, backstabbing, ingratitude, biting the hand that feeds, opportunism, indecisiveness, timidity, and corrupted conscience
- impostor indulgence (pretentiousness, tendency to live in denial, slavery to delusions of grandeur and self-deceptions, propensity to postpone dealing with fundamentals and self-truths endlessly)
- risk-aversion, complacency (which is wrongly labelled by the ego as contentment, renunciation of greed), preference for status quo, avoidance of duties, responsibilities, commitments that don't further selfish interests
- lack of resistance to (or unquestioned, spineless acceptance of) 'bad change' imposed by evil-minded people at the top, but avoidance or perpetual postponement of the necessary 'good change' advocated by higher-realm people.

This cowardly, ignorant, self-deceiving, and self-defeating attitude of the majority middle-class people, which stops them from pursuing top-level success, is covered up by their ego as being "wise", "cautious", "smart", "strategic", "practical", "realistic", "not being excessively ambitious and greedy", "acting as per one's own limitations", etc.

5) Middle-class people want Universe to help them maximize comfort-reinforcing, ill-gotten "success" of the ego-created, ego-preferred "comfort zone" in exactly the way they desire.

Meaning, middle-class people want absolute power to manipulate the entire Universe Itself to make 'It' work in the way they want.

Middle-class people resist allowing themselves to be manipulated and used by Universe in the way 'It' wants, so as to be rewarded by 'It' beyond all expectations and wildest dreams. Because their intellect, conscience and soul have been corrupted by capitalism, their faith has been eroded as well.

Hence, middle-class people don't have trust in Universe that 'It' will for sure bestow "rewards" (of the material realm, to be sure) if 'right' efforts are put in for 'right' purposes.

When they develop trust, fill the faith deficit, they can easily realize that such massive "rewards" will come for sure, and ought to be used the right way, for right purposes.

That, in turn, will help build a virtuous cycle.

Else, a whirlpool-like vicious cycle of downward spiral will ensue.

Have a view, comment, observation or feedback to share? Email us: nriinatter@outlook.com