

MINDLESS MIDDLE-CLASS

13 questions that expose “people”

- 1)** As COVID rages on savaging societies and economies alike, 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?

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