On Loving Myself

By Charlie Chaplin

As I began to love myself I found that anguish and emotional suffering are only warning signs that I am living against my own truth. Today, I know, this is "Authenticity."

As I began to love myself I understood how much it can offend somebody when I try to force my desires on this person, even though I know the time is not right and the person is not ready for it, and even though this person is me. Today I call it "Respect."

As I began to love myself I stopped craving for a different life, and I could see that everything that surrounds me is inviting me to grow. Today I call it "Maturity."

As I began to love myself I understood that at any circumstance, I am in the right place at the right time, and everything happens at the exactly right moment. So I can be calm. Today I call it "Self-Confidence."

As I began to love myself I quit stealing my own time, and I stopped designing huge projects for the future. Today, I only do what brings me joy and happiness, things I love to do and that make my heart cheer, and I do them in my own way and in my own rhythm. Today I call it "Simplicity."

As I began to love myself I freed myself of anything that is no good for my health -- food, people, things, situations, and everything that drew me down and away from myself. At first I called this attitude a healthy egoism. Today I know it is "Love of Oneself."

As I began to love myself I quit trying to always be right, and ever since I am wrong less of the time. Today I discover that is "Modesty."

As I began to love myself I refused to go on living in the past and worry about the future. Now, I only live for the moment, where "everything" is happening. Today I live each day, day by day, and I call it "Fulfillment."

As I began to love myself I recognized that my mind can disturb me and it can make me sick. But when I connect it to my heart, my mind becomes a valuable ally. Today I call this connection "Wisdom of the Heart."

We no longer need to fear arguments, confrontations or any kind of problems with ourselves or others. Even stars collide, and out of their crashing new worlds are born. Today I know "That is Life!"