

# *Looking for the Lost Self*

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How much are you prepared to pay in order to find your lost soup? To what extent can you sacrifice so that others may find their lost selves? If you lose your bag, bike or car, you will become worried and upset. You will go every where, and you will be asking whoever you come across whether they see it or not. Moreover, you will even be ready to give cash in order to get hold of it. Some people also specify a prize and consider offering a reward to its finders, since that which lost is important to them. In finding a book or a watch, we can provide our efforts to a certain degree, but if we lose a bag full of documents and certificates, we will be ready to struggle to an even greater degree in order to find it.

This means that the more important the lost or stolen item is, the greater the grief of losing it, and the greater the endeavor to find it. Money is valuable, but if one's child is kidnapped, he will spend all his property to find him. If he himself is kidnapped, he will provide the kidnapper with whatever they ask for so as to attain freedom from their clutches. This is because one likes himself more than everyone and everything else. Now, truly, what is this lost or stolen 'self'?

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Is it only his body? Or is it possible that it is his 'thinking' and 'soul', too? Why does he believe that being trapped within four-walls is imprisonment, and attaining freedom from it is a necessity even if it costs a lot? Yet on the other hand, he does not find imprisonment in the cage of his carnal desires, destructive habits and ugly character, or in general, vices something unwanted or unpleasant? Is the danger and harm of mind-robbers than that of those who steal and take as hostage one's physical existence, his son, his car, or his motorbike? How beautiful is the statement of Imam Ali (a.s.): I am surprised at a person who is endeavoring to find his lost item, while he has lost his self, and he is not thinking of finding it. If search and endeavor is proportionate to the value of that which is lost or stolen; it can be said that someone who is not in search of his self, has definitely not recognized the worth of his self.