

5 QUESTS

Human life is driven forward by yearnings too vague for articulation. We are impelled on a great quest for we know not exactly what; we proceed, feeling that something we shall discover along the way will reveal to us the object of our search. What we do discover along the way, guiding us toward the true object of our search, are a *succession* of guiding quests.

- At the first stage of life, our quest is for *identity*, to discover who we are and who we are not, to define an I and a NOT-I.
- Second, we seek *understanding*, answers to the what's, the when's, the where's, the how's, viewing the world 'out there' as IT.
- Then, we seek *meaning*, answers to the why's, beholding the I in the context of the world as IT.
- Penultimately, we cease to regard the world as IT and begin to see it like ourself. We then seek *relationship* between the I and the world, now seen as THOU.
- Finally, our quest for relationship leads to the realization that the notion of I is itself a barrier to our further progress. Our quest then is to seek *wholeness*. The I merges with the NOT-I, the IT, the THOU and becomes ONE—completeness.

5 NEGATIVE QUESTS

Sometimes in our great quest, we find we are not sustained by the process of the search itself and cannot endure the tension of the lack of definition of the goal. We then introduce some surrogate goal to symbolize the one we cannot articulate. Once this is done, the possibility that the surrogate replaces that which it symbolized is great. Five surrogate searches whose pursuit leads us from our prime quest:

- The search for security.
- The search for renown.
- The search for riches.
- The search for power.
- The search for success.