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WILLIS E. ELLIOTT, Dean
Exploratory Programs

David Brinkley
NBC

Dear Mr. Brinkley,

Yes, I can answer your question as to what status symbol should succeed the big car and the big house.

The big soul.

The Jews call it "holy one" (qadhosh)

—Moses and Jesus are models for something big

The Greeks and Romans call it "big-soul" (megalopsyche and magnanima, from the latter we getting "magnanimity")

—How about Socrates and Cicero?

The Indians, too, call it "big-soul" (maha-atma)

—Maha-atma (Mahatma) Ghandi

The Chinese call it "the heaven-earth one" (ti-li)

—Lao-Tsu

And need I go on?

Two catches:

1. In the past, people haven't been exactly gentle with great souls. They've wound up with a bad press if not also with a death certificate.

2. Great souls are notably indifferent to status—so how can great-soulness become a status symbol?

Back to square one, but

Grace and peace,

Willis E. Elliott