## **From poverty to power or the realization of prosperity and peace**

**James Allen (author and philosopher) 1864-1912**

**(**James Allen was a British philosophical writer known for his inspirational books and poetry and as a pioneer of the self-help movement.)

**According to James Allen (1901/2009, pp. 5-11), evil is not an abstract thing that is outside ourselves. It is there for a reason and it has a lesson for us. Patiently examining and rectifying our heart, the origin and nature of evil can be gradually understood, which will necessarily followed by its complete eradication. All evil is corrective and remedial and is therefore not permanent. He also stated that the outside world that affects us is the mirror of our own experience. Everything that happens to us is part of ourselves. All the sins are rightly called “evil,” since they are the efforts of the soul to subvert, in its ignorance, the law that governs our mind. This leads to chaos and confusion within. Sooner or later they will manifest in the outward circumstances as disease, failure, and misfortune, coupled with grief, pain, and despair. Whereas love, gentleness and good-will brings harmony and they become actualised in the form of health, peaceful surroundings, and undeviating success and good fortune. By our own thoughts we make our life and the circumstances shape accordingly. Every soul attracts its own quality. Every soul is a complex combination of gathered experiences and thoughts, while our the body is a vehicle for its manifestation. We are the result of what we have thought. Allen does not deny that circumstances cannot affect us, however, he suggested that circumstances can only affect us in so far as we allow them to do so**.