



Shame is defined as a self-critical emotion, according to which individuals display a negative consideration of themselves. They usually perceive themselves as defective. For instance, they can think they are ugly, incompetent, or stupid. In other words, the moment we feel ashamed, we perceive ourselves as irremediably and unequivocally different from an ideal image of ourselves we previously had. We do not feel ashamed because of the actions we have done, but because of who we are. For these reasons shame is a matter of hiding ourselves: in social contexts, individuals avoid the emergence of shame in order not to feel their being valueless, inadequate, or deficient.

(S. Redae II)