

## Man and Contradictions

There is no human being that is entirely good or entirely bad. Good and bad, virtue and sin coexist in every man's heart, while sanity and madness, intelligence and stupidity coexist in his mind. Both the dark side and the human side inhabit the same body and mind of every man and woman. Thus, every human being, with no exceptions, continuously exhibits in his behavior goodness and badness, virtue and sin, intelligence and stupidity, sanity and madness.

People are often kind to other people they do not know; they tend at times to commit crimes against people they know well and care for. People, moreover, cannot enjoy life without having friends they love and trust. However, when ideologies were developed and became a force in regulating man's behavior and influencing his attitudes toward the other, they began to affect his thinking and feelings and teach him to be less tolerant and more suspicious. As a consequence, ideology led man to become possessive and aggressive and largely materialistic, hating people who disagree with him and care less about his ideology. Meanwhile, possessiveness and aggressiveness and materialism led him to slowly forget the good aspect of his nature and emphasize the darker side of his personality.

Man can be taught to be more good than bad, to value virtue more than sin, to behave in more rational than irrational ways; and to think more intelligently and less stupidly. But for man to be good, virtuous, sane, rational, and intelligent, he needs to be taught how to think and behave and live in the light of the virtuous side of his personality away from the darker one. However, no man is able to free himself entirely from the binds of old things that make him behave in ways contrary to his nature unless he frees himself first from the binds of strict ideologies.

Nevertheless, people cannot be challenged without having adversaries to compete with or enemies to wage war against. But when people wage war, they allow hate to occupy their hearts and madness to control their minds, causing both body and soul to be infected; at times corrupted beyond redemption. War, which ideology inspires and often promotes, is the most destructive force in human history; it rubs man of his humanity and transforms his virtues into sins.

Wise men believing in the humanity of mankind have continued to ask the puzzling question: why has the creative mind that painted so many beautiful images of life and the other; and built so many useful buildings and bridges and canals; and manufactured so many great industrial things and technological gadgets to make life fun and living enjoyable; has continued to make destructive bombs and war machines and wage war to destroy the very human life it worked so hard to celebrate? While there is no simple answer to this vastly important question on which the survival of humanity rests, ideology and man's commitment to it, and his deep belief in the righteousness of the ideas and ideals it espouses are the major culprits. Ideology motivates believers to create mass movements that live and function in the shadows of the darker side of man's heart and mind, and lead him to dehumanize the other and wage war to harm and punish people who do not adhere to their ideology. Therefore, no solution would be found to save our humanity from destruction until we transcend ideologies and put human consciousness in control.

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