

EXERCISE 6

Almost every country in the world believes that it has some special dispensation from Providence, that it is of the chosen people, or race and that others, whether they are good or bad, are somewhat inferior creatures. It is extraordinary how this kind of feeling persists in all nations of the East as well as of the West without exception. The nations of the East are strangely entrenched in their own ideas and convictions and sometimes in their own sense of superiority about certain matters. Anyhow, in the course of the last two or three hundred years, they have received many knocks on the head and they have been humiliated, they have been debased and they have been exploited. And so, in spite of their feeling that they were superior in many ways, they were forced to admit that they could be knocked about and exploited. To some extent this brought a sense of realism to them. There was also an attempt to escape from reality by saying that it was sad that we were not so advanced in material or technical things but that these were after all superficial. Nevertheless we were superior in essential things, in spiritual things, in moral values. I have no doubt that spiritual things and moral values are ultimately more important than other things but the way one finds escape in the thought that one is

spiritually superior simply because one is inferior in material and physical sense, is surprising. It does not follow by any means. It is an escape from facing up the causes of one's degradation.

The Sense of Superiority

According to author, each country believes that it possesses a special privilege bestowed by ~~the~~ divine power. They consider themselves superior to others, often disregarding their potential. This sense of superiority is prevalent in both the Eastern and Western worlds. Over the past three decades, the East has gradually embraced a sense of realism. The East may not have been as advanced in technical fields, they held a strong belief in their moral and spiritual superiority. This perspective in the East serves as a means to avoid confronting the causes of individuals' degradation.

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