

Those who regard the decay of civilization as something quite normal and natural console themselves with the thought that it is not civilizations, but a civilization, which is falling a prey to dissolution, that there will be a new age and a new race in which there will blossom a new civilizations. But that is a mistake. The earth no longer has in reverse, as it had once, gifted peoples as yet unused, who can relieve us and take our place in some distant future as the leaders of our spiritual life. We already know all those that the earth has to dispose of. There is not one among them which is not already taking such a part in our civilisation that its spiritual fate is determined by our own. All of them, the gifted and the un-gifted, the distant and the near, have felt the influence of those forces of barbarism which are yet working among us. All of them are, like ourselves, diseased, and only as we--recover can they recover. It is not the civilisation of a race, but that of mankind, present and future alike, that we must give up as lost, if belief in the rebirth of our civilisation is a vain thing. But it need not be so given up. If the ethical is the essential element in civilisation, decadence changes into renaissance as on as ethical activities are set to work again in our convictions and in the ideas which we undertake to stamp upon reality. The attempt to bring this about is well worth making, and it should be worldwide. It is true that the difficulties that have to be reckoned with in this undertaking are so great that only the strongest faith in the power of the ethical spirit will let us venture on it. Again the renewal of civilisation is hindered by the fact that it is so exclusively the individual personality which must be looked to as the agent in the new movement. The renewal of civilisation has nothing to do with movements which bear the character of the experiences of the crowd; these are never anything but reactions to external happenings. But civilisation can only revive when there shall come into being in a number of individuals a new tone of mind independent of the one prevalent among the crowd and in opposition to it, a tone of mind which gradually win influence over the collective one, and in the end determine its character. It is only an ethical movement which can rescue us from the slough of barbarism; and the ethical comes into existence only in individuals.

The final decision as to what the future of a society shall be depends not only how near its organisation is to perfection, but on the degrees of worthiness in its individual members. The most important, and yet the least easily determinable, element in history is, the series of unobtrusive general changes which take place in the individual dispositions, and that is why it is so difficult to understand thoroughly the men and events of past times. The character and worth of individuals among the mass and the way they work themselves into membership of the whole body, receiving influences from its and giving others back, we can even today only partially and uncertainly understand. One thing, however, is clear. Were the collective body works more strongly on the individual than the latter does upon it, the result is deterioration because the noble element on which everything depends, namely the spiritual and moral worthiness of the individual is thereby necessarily constricted and hampered. Decay of the spiritual and moral life then sets in which renders society incapable of understanding and solving the problems which it has to face. Therefore sooner or later, it is involved in catastrophe, and that is why it is the duty of individuals to a higher conception of their capabilities and undertake the function which only the individual can perform, that of producing new spiritual-ethical ideas. If this does not come about many times over nothing can save us.



## Reviving Civilization Through Ethical Values

Those people are at mistake who consider the end of civilization a normal thing and think that some day a new civilization will blossom. They don't know that the earth has no longer spiritual leaders who can guide us in our future. The fate our civilization depend on our actions. They have experienced the factors, still stick with us, which destroy a civilization and they have the same potential as we have. If we consider revival of civilization as a futile effort, we must lost a civilization of humanity but it should not give up. Infact, ethical values can revive cultural decline if we again adopt them at world level in our ideas or beliefs. Due to greater sufferings on this path only a stronger faith can lead to success. Ethical movements should not work at collective level but they should work at individual level only then they can save from dissolution. The future of society depends on the



worthiness of its members not on structural organization  
The most important element in history, we cannot  
clearly understand, is changes in the modest nature  
of individuals. When society exerts more influence  
on individuals than they do on it, deterioration occurs,  
leading to spiritual and moral decay. This incapacitates  
society from solving its problems and may lead to  
catastrophe. Therefore individuals must recognize their  
potential to initiate ethical change as the survival  
of civilization depends on them.

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