

The most disquieting psychological feature of our time, and the one which affords the best argument for the necessity of some creed, however irrational, is the death wish. Everyone knows how some primitive communities, brought suddenly into contact with white men, become listless, and finally die from mere absence of the will to live. In Western Europe, the new conditions of danger which exist are having something of the same effect. Facing facts is painful, and the way out is not clear. Nostalgia takes the place of energy directed towards the future. There is a tendency to shrug the shoulders and say "Oh well, if we are exterminated by hydrogen bombs, it will save a lot of trouble." This is a tired and feeble reaction, like that of the late Romans to the barbarians. It can only be met by courage, hope and a reasoned optimism. Let us see what basis there is for hope.

There are certain things that our age needs, and certain things that it should avoid. It needs compassion and a wish that mankind should be happy; it needs the desire for knowledge and the determination to eschew pleasant myths; it needs, above all, courageous hope and the impulse to creativeness. The things that it must avoid, and that have brought it to the brink of catastrophe, are cruelty, envy, greed, competitiveness, search for irrational subjective certainty, and, what Freudians call, the death wish.

The root of the matter is a very simple and old-fashioned thing, a thing so simple that I am almost ashamed to mention it, for fear of the derisive smile with which wise cynics will greet my words. The thing I mean -- please forgive me for mentioning it -- is love, Christian love, or compassion. If you feel this, you have a motive for existence, a guide in action, a reason for courage, an imperative necessity for intellectual honesty. If you feel this, you have all that anybody should need in the way of religion. Although you may not find happiness, you will never know the deep despair of those whose life is aimless and void of purpose; for there is always something that you can do to diminish the awful sum of human misery.

## LOVE; the Guiding Path Towards Contentment.

An alarming feature of modern times is the affinity towards death. The increasing struggles of life have made people comfortable with the idea of death as the solution to their problems. This can only be resolved through the positive force of hope. Firstly, there is a dire need for emphasis on empathy and positivity, things that keep one's spirits alive mentally and intellectually. Secondly, one should steer clear from negative aspects of human nature such as greed. The cure to the problem lies simply in love. It is love that keeps one motivated to live and face their problems head on. Although, this path does not guarantee happiness, it ascertains a purposeful existence.

Idea is ok. Mistakes identified.

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