

MAX HEINDEL'S MESSAGE

Allowing Defective Children to Die

The author's knowledge of occult anatomy and spiritual causation should give proponents of eugenics and euthanasia reason to reconsider their ideas.

ARE DOCTORS JUSTIFIED in allowing a child to die that is bound to be an idiot and physically helpless, when an operation would enable it to live? Does an idiot gain any experience during life? Is the Ego within aware of the physical disability of the mind and body during such a life, and does it learn thereby? Can insanity be classed among the hereditary diseases?

Suppose a child met with an accident while playing, a blow on the head, and hence became abnormal, or perhaps was put into a state of coma; no one would hesitate for a moment to have the operation of trepanning performed so that by taking the pressure off the skull from the brain the child might be restored to its normal state of consciousness. And why should a newborn child not receive the same care and have everything done for it that is possible? It would be considered criminal to allow an older child to die for lack of care, and it is just as indefensible in the case of a newborn child, for when the Ego has gone through the womb in order to gain the experience of this physical life, we are in duty bound to support its efforts in every possible manner.

Then it is asked, Does the Ego gain experience by a life of insanity? Yes, it does, for the Ego itself is never insane. The improper connection between its various vehicles, the mind, desire body, vital body, and dense body makes for insanity. When the connection between the brain centers and the vital body is imperfect, then we have what is called the idiot, often melancholy but generally perfectly harmless. When the faulty connection is between

the desire body and the vital body, the conditions are somewhat similar, but include the class in which the muscular control is defective, as in the case of epilepsy and St. Vitus dance. When the connection is broken or faulty between the desire body and the mind we have the raving maniac who is violent and dangerous. And when the connection is defective between the Ego and the mind, we have what we might call a soulless man, the most dangerous of all, gifted with a cunning that is usually at some unexpected time put to a most diabolical use.

If we consider the body or the different bodies as musical instruments upon which the Ego is playing, then when every connection is perfect, the Ego can bring out a more or less beautiful symphony of life, according to its stage in evolution; but when the connections are faulty or broken, the Ego is like a musician forced to exercise his talent with an instrument lacking a number of strings, and is unable to bring out anything but discords. To a musician it would be torture to be forced to play upon such a defective instrument, and it is the same with the Ego which is immured in an insane personality. For reasons to be sought in past lives, it is forced to stay with a body that it cannot control. It suffers more or less acutely according to its stage in evolution, and thus it learns the lessons in the School of Life which are required to make it perfect. It is a sad condition, but though a lifetime appears to us very long, it is but as a fleeting moment in the unending life of the Spirit, and we may console ourselves with the knowledge that when the Ego comes back to Earth again it will

have a normal body, provided of course the lesson has been learned.

With respect to the last part of the question, Is insanity hereditary?, we may answer either in the affirmative or the negative according to which phase of the problem we are considering. From the spiritual point of view, as we have already stated, insanity is not a defect in the Ego, but because of a twist in its character it cannot build a normal body; hence, by association, it is drawn to a family that is similarly inclined. This is on the very same principle that we see people of like character always seeking one another's company. As the old saying goes, "Birds of a feather flock together."

Musicians congregate in music halls, at concerts, and similar places. They also seek birth in the families of musicians because there the instrument needed, long slender fingers and an ear in which the semi-circular canals are properly placed, give them the ability to express music. Sporting men and gamblers flock together on race tracks and in gambling dens. Thieves have their resorts and so on. Similarly those with a certain defect in

their characters are attracted to people and families which have the same defect. Hence if we view the problem of insanity from the form side, it may be said that it is hereditary.

Scientists who view the matter entirely from the form side are of the opinion that by limiting the reproduction of defectives they may stamp out disease. But just as the soft juices which at one time formed the snail's body are gradually sent out and crystallized into the hard and flinty shell it carries upon its back, so the former acts of the soul have crystallized themselves into a body wherein the Spirit must dwell until that body is worn out. Relief will never be obtained by working with and upon the physical body alone, any more than operating upon the shell would cure a sick snail. Emerson said truly that "a sick man is a scoundrel who has been found out in breaking the laws of nature." The insane are in that category, and if we wish to cure them we must apply the spiritual means of education, for all other methods are simply palliative; they do not reach the source of the disease. □

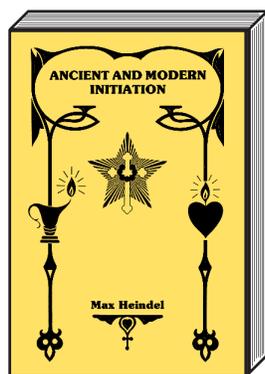
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