

Will to Power

Human identity in the past was mainly dictated by biological needs and man's struggle to satisfy them. Today, the advance of knowledge in developed countries has lessened man's dependence on his environment. He has an unprecedented freedom to choose his work and to indulge in activities that will transcend the bare necessities.

Behaviorists, educational experts and also humanists are increasingly interested in what they call "identity crisis" which seems to occur for lack of, and be cured by finding, the work or cause or purpose that "evokes man's own creativity", or "...work of his own that contributes to the human community and carries forth human society."

The need for self-realization is fundamental in man. Psychologists and philosophers call it "will to power", "self-assertion", "self-actualization" "transcendence of the self". They affirm that it does not imply aggression or competitive striving in the usual sense; it is "the courage to be an individual"; it is a new concept of normality which postulates that man is happy, self-accepting, healthy or without guilt only when he is fulfilling himself and serving his environment.

Few people in the past had the opportunity for self-realization in the sense already described. But the spread of culture and social consciousness is likely to increase the number of those committed to the service of truth, the help of suffering humanity and the liberation of potential talents.

Potential talents may be forfeited everywhere, but more particularly in developing countries where people are restricted to the fulfillment of bare existence needs. The population explosion which threatens the world at present, for example, is mostly due to the state of ignorance and abjection to which the majority of the world's inhabitants are reduced. This condition applies mainly to women and children who are more exposed than men to suffer neglect and to endure injustice.

It was for the purpose of handling this situation that the Woman's International year was held in 1975, and the International year of the Child will be held in 1979.

If the suffering of the world has increased through the complexity of living conditions and the impending scarcity of food production, the activities of those working for general welfare have equally intensified. Severe crises have turned ordinary people into heroes and successful leaders.

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