

Editorial

THE GERM

Bitterness was a persistent trait in my young friend. When she was a student at college, whenever we met, she had something to complain about. Unfair grades, teachers' bias, students' folly and pseudo-modernism. She herself was against irrational traditions and prejudices, yet she adhered to certain traits, good or bad, inherited from her environment.

I attributed her bitterness to certain frustrations connected with her school work. But this condition persisted in spite of a successful marriage and comfortable family surroundings. Material success became to her a means of compensation for intellectual mediocrity. She became infected with the political germ, involved in party politics, not because she was particularly qualified to play a political role, nor because she was interested in public welfare, but because she thought, as did those who pushed her forward and whose game she was playing, that politics was the shortest way to power, glamour, enormous wealth and unique privileges; this being the concept of political activity in an underdeveloped country.

My friend was not happy and will probably never be. She was the victim of unquenchable lust for importance. She would equally be a source of unhappiness for others because she did not refrain from exploiting them for her own ends.

Most of the troubles of the world, as it seems, come from people who, as individuals or as groups, develop a mad thirst for domination and self-aggrandizement, leading them to commit all sorts of infringements in order to attain their goals.

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