

Man's Interdependence

"Every man's death diminishes me, for I am a part of all mankind; therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee."

This thought was put into writing by the well-remembered poet and mystic, John Donne. Although he penned them many years ago, the words are no less true today. He seems to be saying the same thing Tennyson said more simply when he wrote: "I am a part of all that I have met."

The word interdependence, according to Webster, means "dependence upon one another." When one speaks of man's interdependence, he means that men are dependent one upon another in the business of living together happily and peacefully. Indeed, there are countless specific fields, such as economics, agriculture, medicine, and social organization, in which man can not succeed alone. However, there is one field that touches the life of every man whether he be in a city or a country village. That is the element in society known as morals or moral standards.

In the early days of creation the question was asked: "Am I my brother's keeper?" This question of antiquity is repeated daily; it is the problem of each individual to find the answer. As young American citizens, who are living in an age in which future harmony and happiness hang in the balance, it would be well to consider man's moral interdependence.

There is a natural tendency to "follow the crowd," so to speak, or, in other words, to desire to be in the center of any activity around one. Often, even though the path of the crowd may be objectionable to an individual, a period of time may tend to break down his reserve and his ideals. The influence that one human being has on another can not be discredited; it is said, therefore, that man is morally interdependent.

Now it remains to be seen whether or not those who accept this fact will recognize their responsibility and seek to put the noblest of their ideals into a working conformity with it. This responsibility may not be met with words. The value and truth of one's ideals can not be proved by the greatest oratorical ability. Those ideals must live in the individual's actions. The old adage, "What you are speaks so loudly that I can not hear what you are saying," shows itself to be true.

It has been said that "evil is not a theory to be discussed but rather a force to be destroyed." Hence, if one is able to seize the truth of the statement that man is morally interdependent and realize the opportunity and duty it presents, it becomes imperative for him to lead with conviction. Especially is this true for those who are striving to reach that degree of perfection exemplified by Jesus Christ.

**Remember, my friend, each day
is a pocket edition of your life.**

—Betty Sanders.

by
Netta Sue Caudill

The Pencil

I came from out an aged tree
Into a life quite young and new;
I saw that there was hope for me,
Some worthy goal I might pursue.

From tree, through mill, and on to
store,
Where some good clerk made sale
of me,
It seemed my hopes again one tore
When to a desk I had to flee.

For days I lay within that cell
Until embittered toward mankind;
But oh, what joy there came to
dwell
When human hands my form did
find!

This man with me began to write
Great words of truth for eyes to
read;
And I knew then that through his
might,
I, though small, had done my deed.

—Leary Reid.

Success

You do not have to reach for the stars to achieve success.
You have only to pick a hungry, ragged and dirty lad from the streets
And hug him close to your breast and whisper motherly nothings to
gladden his heart.

You do not have to spend your filthy millions. Children do not want
money.

You have only to take a little waif upon your knee and tell him of
Uncle Remus and Peter Rabbit.

Success is in the laughter of children who have not had their share of
laughter in this world.

It is in the job of those children who have learned too soon that life is
hard on the race and harder on the individual.

It is in the smiles of the kids with sticky fingers from candy or dirty
faces from other sweets.

Successful is he who can see that every child who is uncared for
is in the care of someone else in the world. Such is success. Such is
love for a child.

—Robin Kellum.

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