

C.G. JUNG SAID THAT A GOOD MANY PEOPLE WHO CAME TO CONSULT HIM FOR HELP, DESCRIBED THEIR SITUATION BY SIMPLY SAYING, I AM STUCK." THIS PREDICAMENT WAS HIS, AND IT IS OURS. JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH, THE CRITIC AND MORALIST, ~~AM~~ SAID IN AN ARTICLE THAT OURS IS AN AGE OF FUN. WE HAVE DEDICATED OURSELVES TO HAVING A GOOD TIME AND AMUSING OURSELVES. CERTAINLY IT IS TRUE THAT THOSE WHO SELL RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT WRE DOING A TREMENDOUS BUSINESS. WE BUY MOTOR BOATS AND SPEND THE WEEKENDS RUNNING THEM ON THE OCEANS, THE RIVERS, AND THE LAKES. WE LEARN ALL KINDS OF SPORTS. IF WE DO NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE, AT LEAST WE CAN SIT IN THE STANDS AND WATCH SOMEBODY ELSE PLAY THE GAMES. OUR URBAN CIVILIZATION MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO ENJOY SOPHISTICATED AMUSEMENT WHENEVER WE DESIRE IT.

YET AS KRUTCH POINTS OUT, IT IS NOT ^{only} AN AGE OF FUN BUT IT IS ALSO AN AGE OF VIOLENCE AND DESPAIR. THESE THINGS SEEM TO BE QUITE CONTRARY AND INEXPLAINABLE. WHY IS IT THAT THEY ALL COME TOGETHER IN THE SAME SOCIETY? HE SAYS THAT IF YOU SEEK FUN TOO PERSISTENTLY, YOU DISCOVER THAT YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY HAVE IT ALL THE TIME AND THIS LEADS TO BOREDOM. THE TRUTH IS THAT SUCH A PURPOSE IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR MEN AND IN THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT SOME DESPAIR, AND OTHERS TURN TO VIOLENCE. THE STREETS OF OUR CITIES BECOME UNSAFE FOR PEOPLE TO WALK ON AFTER DARK, NOT BECAUSE MEN ARE POOR, BUT BECAUSE MEN ARE NOT HAVING ANY FUN.

JOHN FISCHER, EDITOR OF HARPER'S MAGAZINE, TRAVELED IN IRAN, THE MODERN NAME FOR PERSIA. HE COMMENTED ON THE SUSPICION AND DISTRUST WHICH PERMEATES THAT SOCIETY SO THAT NOBODY REALY TRUSTS ANYBODY ELSE. HE SAYS THAT IN THE CITIES THERE ARE EMPTY LOTS SURROUNDED BY WALLS, FOR THE FIRST THING A MAN HAS TO DO IS BUILD A WALL AROUND ANYTHING HE OWNS. SOMETIMES WHEN THE WALL IS BUILT THE MAN HAS NO MONEY LEFT TO BUILD THE HOUSE, AND SO IN THE CITIES ARE THESE EMPTY, WALLED-IN PLACES. AND I THOUGHT TO MYSELF THAT THIS IS TYPICAL OF MANY LIVES. WE HAVE POSSESSIONS WHICH WE WALLIIN TO PROTECT, BUT THEY ARE ONLY EMPTY SPACES. WE WANT AND WE NEED MORE THAN TH TO LIVE FOR. LIKE THE RICH YOUNG RULER, WE HAVE EVERYTHING AND WE HAVE NOTHING.

THIS LEADS TO THE THIRD POINT, WHICH IS THAT HE RECOGNIZED HIS PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.-- IN THIS, OF COURSE, HE DIFFERED MARKEDLY FROM US, AND HERE HE HAS SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO TEACH US.

SOMETHING THAT IMPRESSES ME VERY MUCH TODAY IS A GROWING LACK OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAPPENS TO US. IF

you READ THE CONTEMPORARY NOVELS, YOU MUST BE IMPRESSED WITH A GENERAL SPIRIT OF BLAMELESSNESS WHICH FILLS MOST OF THEM. HERE ARE PEOPLE PORTRAYED LIVING LIKE PIGS AND THEN VERY MUCH UPSET WHEN THEY BEGIN TO FEEL LIKE PIGS. THERE IS NEVER ANY INDICATION THAT THIS STALE, CORRUPT LIFE IS ANY FAULT OF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES, BUT ON THE CONTRARY, THEY TALK ABOUT BEING BETRAYED AND DISAPPOINTED BY LIFE. THEIR LIVES ARE ALL MIXED UP AND COMPLICATED BY SILLY CHOICES AND STUPID BEHAVIOR BUT NEVER THE SLIGHTEST HINT OF PERSONAL BLAME. "I SOMETIMES WANT TO CRY OUT TO THESE PEOPLE, "FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, WHAT ELSE CAN YOU EXPECT IF YOU LIVE LIKE THIS?" IF YOU WANT TO FIND LIFE, THEN LISTEN TO JESUS AND OBEY HIM." BUT YOU WILL ~~READ~~ A LONG TIME BEFORE FINDING A MODERN NOVEL PICTURING PEOPLE IN ANY OTHER GUISE THAN VICTIMS.

IT IS REFRESHING TO LOOK AT A YOUNG MAN WHO BELIEVES THERE IS A GOOD LIFE WHICH HE HAS MISSED. I AM SURE THAT HE HAD STOOD IN THE CROWDS MORE THAN ONCE AND LISTENED TO THE GALILEAN TEACHER. JESUS IMPRESSED HIM AS HAVING WHAT HE KNEW HE WANTED AND MUST FIND. HE HAD LISTENED TO THIS PROPHET FROM NAZARETH SPEAK, AND THE WORDS CARRIED AUTHORITY AND HOPE. SO THERE CAME A TIME WHEN HE COULD WAIT NO LONGER AND RAN TO HEAR THE SECRET. HE KNEW HE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, AND THERE WAS NO PROFIT IN BEWAILING THE ~~ESS~~SADNESS OF HIS LIFE AND WALLOWING IN HIS DESPAIR. THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO COULD TELL HIM WHAT HE NEEDED TO DO AND HE MUST GO TO HIM QUICKLY.

HE ASKED, WHAT SHALL I DO? THERE IS A SENSE, OF COURSE, IN WHICH HE WAS QUITE WRONG BECAUSE THE GOOD LIFE IS NOT MERELY BUSYNESS. IT IS BEING. WE SHALL NEVER FIND IT BY DOING OR BY OBEYING THE COMMANDMENTS. BUT HE WAS QUITE RIGHT IN RECOGNIZING THAT NOTHING COULD HAPPEN UNTIL HE MADE THE CHOICE AND OPENED UP HIS HEART. IT IS TRUE THAT THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO BEFORE WE CAN FIND LIFE.

THERE WAS A SECRETARY WHO WAS NEVER ON TIME, AND IT FINALLY EXHAUSTED HER EMPLOYER'S PATIENCE. SHE CAME IN LATE ONE MORNING AND HE SAID SEVERELY, "YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE AT NINE O'CLOCK." SHE REPLIED, "WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?" WELL, IF SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO US, WE SHALL HAVE TO BE READY. LIFE WILL NOT MEET OUR CONVENIENCE NOR SEEK US OUT, UNTIL WE HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE A FIRST MOVE. THIS IS ONE OF THE GREAT LESSONS THE YOUNG MAN HAS TO TEACH US.

THE LAST THING TO NOTE IS THAT JESUS SAID MEN MUST LOSE TO WIN. IT IS THE PARADOXICAL NATURE OF LIFE THAT THE YOUNG MAN COULD NOT ACCEPT. THIS IS NO GENERAL TEACHING THAT ALL WEALTH HAS