

STRUCTURES OF SELF

In my current explorations I'm "somehow" inclined to postulate that everyone is --to varying extents and at one time or another -- "touched by God." We can say this non-deistically as having the experience of "awakening" or over-coming the sense of being a separate individual.

I believe this postulation is useful (non-gratuitous) because it proposes--graphically--a model of human character which throws light on certain features of behavior, i.e., the higher features.

Having encountered --in whatever way and to whatever extent--the transcendent self, the individual forevermore longs for its return. Having gone beyond narcissism, one is pained and saddened by its presence. Having felt a love beyond boundaries, other loves come off as second best. Having penetrated to extraordinary depths of meaning, one senses the limitations of "mere words". Having glimpsed that God's Awareness is "everywhere and everywhen" one feels a plodding character to everyday thinking.

But this image of man is NOT INCONSISTENT with the opposing postulation that we simultaneously contain so-called Satanic forces--dark, destructive, amoral, secretive and --as in the case of Godly features--defying ordinary understanding.

Now the idea that man is a battleground of forces high and low, of darkness and light is hardly new. It is ancient.

I am here suggesting and hoping that postulating that we have all been touched by God is a graphic quality of concreteness and immediacy which makes a contribution to the age-old conversation about the nature of human nature.

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Feb '09