

**On “How We Live And Move And Have Our Being”.  
And Rise Above It**

It is a common religious belief that it is through God that we “Live and move and have our being.” Another view may be taken. Namely, that it is through Nature, through the natural process of being born, that we live and move and have our being.

This very day, at every meal, every human being will survive by killing; plants, animals and fish. If we do not kill them ourselves, others will do it on our behalf.

On our behalf the Farmer in his field has killed the plants, the Butcher in his abattoir has killed the animals, and the Fisherman in boat has killed the fish.

It is through their activities that we live and move and have our being. The amount of killing that is done on our behalf every day is unimaginable. We live by killing: we have no choice; kill we must.

Yet this terrible system, of which we are an inescapable part, and which makes killers of us all, produces creatures that are capable of acts of heroism, compassion and altruism that takes our breath away.

The soldier on the peace line lays down his life for his comrades knowing neither doubt nor hesitation. The Doctor, Nurse and the Teacher leave the cosy comfort of the western world to work in places of unbelievable squalor and danger because they love their fellow man.

Such folk can be found all over our world: -

- there is Student with his life before him who dares to take a stand for democracy and dies,
- there is the Judge who refuses a bribe and is killed,
- there is the lawyer, who Mandela like, speaks out against injustice and is imprisoned for years,
- There is the honest the politician who dares to speak up for the crushed, the bowed down, and downtrodden, and finds him or her-self beaten to within an inch of their life.

These men and women of all creeds, classes, colours, conditions and countries, take our breath away. We are left speechless at their courage, their bravery and their self-sacrifice. Yet we find that even they, who are capable moral magnificence, must kill something every day. Yes, every day of their lives.

Here we have the heart of the human situation: we find ourselves born into the midst of biological carnage on the one hand and human heroism on the other.

The biological carnage is the only means through which we can live, move, and be. Our heroism is the only means by which we can lift our selves to higher and better things and better lives.

At the same time there is that in us which screams out against Nature’s system that makes Mankind killers and predators for millennia to come.

The ugly rotten truth is that it is not through God that we live and move and have our being; it is through Nature.

The question is what are we to do?

On the one hand we have to accept life as it really is. On the other we must fill our hearts with the allure of higher things. We must look up, and let our spirits be drawn to those great eternal verities which call us all to achieve that full moral stature of which mankind is demonstrably capable. The moral heroes of our past call us forward to rise above the carnage and live and move with compassion in our age and time.

If there is “any good that we can do let us do it now. Let us not defer or neglect it, for we shall not pass this way again” To leave the world the poorer is for most us unthinkable. Let us do the good. Doing anything else is unthinkable

In the midst of a horrific world, the supreme act of heroism that is called forth from each one of us is to rise above; the pushing, the shoving and the values of the pigsty and leave our world the better of our being in it.

Is it not a joy, that for each one of us it is entirely possible!

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