

# Man's Human Nature

11 July 10

From the time Man was living in caves, we can imagine him in a continual struggle for some way to live a quiet productive life without having to physically fight every moment to survive. And since Man arrived on the scene he distinguished himself from all the other creatures with his ability to reason. It was this superior ability to reason, that firmly established him as the true King of the Jungle. That is not to say that the other creatures competing with him for survival just rolled over and gave up without a fight. Not at all, Man had to scratch and fight for every inch in his ascension. And lions, tigers, sharks and bears were, and still are more than a match for any man who ventures unarmed onto their territory. But what Man lacked in brute force he made up for with tool-making, cunning, and cooperation among his fellows. Still, he had to meet savagery with savagery in order to survive.

So it should be no surprise that Man is very well schooled in *The Law of the Jungle* and *Survival of the Fittest*. He is so superior in his fighting skills in relation to the lower animals that just one whiff of his presence will send most wild animals heading in the opposite direction. And Man is also his own worst enemy. You don't have to search far to find ample evidence that Man throughout his history has turned his ability to hunt and kill, on his fellow men. "Us Against Them," and "Might Makes Right," have been the mottoes of Civilization's bloody march through History. Written history runs red with the accounts of almost continual War from the earliest times to the present.

I want us to be very careful at this point in our discussion – having noted what a vicious character Man *can* be – not to conclude that savagery is the whole of his Nature. But just to play Devil's Advocate for a moment – what if efficient savagery were the whole of his Nature? Would we be justified in pronouncing that he is *Bad* or *Wrong*? If Yes, by what measure? Since I am a Man writing to others with the same affliction, how could any of us come up with a rational argument that we as a species are *Wrong*? Are lions *Wrong* because a new dominant male kills all the nursing cubs of his predecessor? Are dolphins *Wrong* when the males surround a single female to have repeated sex with her? Are chimpanzees *Wrong* when they wage their wars on other chimpanzees? Are warring ants *Wrong*? How about cancer cells, or bacteria – are they *Bad* or *Wrong*? Take my word for it – the answer is a resounding, "No!" None of the above are *Bad* or *Wrong*!

Absent God, the manufacturer, stepping in to do a product recall of some shoddily conceived species, we might be better served to just relax into being who and what we are. And whether we're the product of God or an impersonal Big Bang, we most definitely are what we are. Man in all his unique characteristics is just as Natural and just as Good as the cutest puppy or busy hummingbird – he's just different, as are all his fellow creatures different one from the other. For someone not the manufacturer, to pronounce that we are *Wrong* or *Bad* is rather presumptuous!

So, let us agree that whatever is the true Nature of Man – by definition, it is quite Natural. Then, if Man is not just a jungle savage, what is his Nature – what is Human Nature?

There is much we can say about his Nature. Man is not unknown to us. We just need look in a mirror, or at our brothers and sisters to know the basics of Human Nature. For just a moment, turn off the TV and radio, and put down the newspaper. Take a look around you. Look at the town where you live – your friends, neighbors, and even the folks you don't know. What you see will probably be a lot more like the *Ozzie And Harriet* environment of the 1950's, than like the horrors with which the "Bad News" industry continually pounds you. Yes, there are horrors in the world: there are crazy people hurting kids; there are out of control Governments waging wars; there are criminals spoiling peoples' lives; and earthquakes destroying cities; but those things do not happen to all people all the time. Most folks' lives are quiet routines of Family, Work, and Socializing. This quiet routine is a far superior statement of Human Nature than is the small percentage of savagery in which Man engages.

Do an experiment in your own life, and turn off all sources of “Bad News,” for just a few days, and Man's Nature will be more clear to you. It's just folks making it through each day the best they can – taking care of themselves, their families and their friends. And yes, within the species of Man, men and women are different – the differences between the sexes are again obvious. Is this to say that one is Right and the other Wrong? No, not at all.

There are always challenges in life dealing with others, but the solutions don't usually include spilt blood. These differences amongst people are just specifics of the broader subject of Human Nature. I contend that across all Societies, you will find some observable basics:

- Man seeks to survive as an Individual.
- He or she loves his or her family.
- Children are cherished.
- Friendships and social associations are the norm.
- Cooperation in Society is general.
- Lying to, stealing from, enslaving, or murdering one of his fellows is considered Wrong.
- Man tends to have faith in Authority Figures.
- Animals, Plants, and Nature in general, is important to Man.
- Individuals have a sense of ownership of Things.
- When they interact in the Market Place, they expect to receive Value for Value.
- If another interferes with the above, Man will use force if necessary to stop that other.
- Those who are perceived to be Strangers are often dealt with more harshly than one's own.

And for the duration of this discussion, let us continue to speak of Human Nature, not Human Rights. What is Human Nature is the measure of what is Good as far as Man goes. We are not interested in chimpanzees, puppies, dolphins, or any other creature. We are interested in Man. Therefore what Man is by his Nature is Good. To suggest that he ought to be other than he observably is, is the height of ignorance and presumption. And Rights – Human Rights – are just various Societies attempts to codify in Law, Human Nature as they interpret it. Depending where you live, you may have very different views of Rights – but your view of Human Nature will be pretty much as the basics listed above.

Similarly, no matter where you live, Lying, Stealing, Enslaving, and Murdering is seen as Criminal. If someone is found lying to, stealing from, enslaving, or murdering one of his fellows, he will be dealt with harshly and possibly imprisoned, killed, or banished from the Society. The only exception to this broad statement is in the lying to, stealing from, enslaving, or murdering of Strangers. Strangers, Aliens, are often looked upon with suspicion, and seen as less Human than one's fellows. Even God in the Old Testament was not terribly merciful to those who were not his Chosen People. His people were expected to live by the Ten Commandments, but other peoples were not constrained, nor protected by that code of conduct.

This different treatment of Strangers is important to focus on for a moment. It in itself the most fertile ground for the Liars, Thieves, Slave Masters, and Murders amongst us. “Divide and Conquer,” is their method to perpetrate their Criminality. If the Criminals can convince the average men and women of their Society that some person or group is an Outsider, then that person or group becomes fair game for whatever savagery the Good People, under the direction of their criminal Rulers, choose to visit upon these “Evil Doers”. I use here George Bush the 2nd's words to describe his “Evil Empire” – even as he was raining down death and destruction upon folks who never did any of the things with which they were charged. *But* since they were made to seem less than Human, whatever the US did to them was OK as far as the average American was concerned. After 9/11, the majority of Americans applauded the attacks against Afghanistan and Iraq. Now (depending on your politics or gullibility) you are probably among the majority that wants the invasions to stop.

This is not to say that the US Government is alone in history in demonizing others in order to galvanize its people against a chosen enemy – it is just the most recent, and quite obvious example. And the continual need for Governments to lie its people into War, also goes to prove that Man is generally pacific, not predisposed to rush out and smash others – he has to be stirred up and given good reason to harm others, before he will sacrifice his quiet routine and go to War.

Why of course the people don't want war. Why should some poor slob on a farm want to risk his life in a war when the best he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece? Naturally the common people don't want war neither in Russia, nor in England, nor for that matter in Germany. That is understood. But, after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the peacemakers for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country.

-Hermann Goering (Nazi leader under Hitler, founder of the Nazi Gestapo, and Commander of the German Air Force)

And it is also instructive to note that those who are behind the stirring up of the people to go to war, do not themselves generally venture out onto the battlefield, nor do their sons. It is the common Man who gets shot up for what he or his grandchildren later learn was a pack of lies used for the benefit of a very few Criminals.

So, I hope the conclusion you have reached along with me, is that Man's Human Nature is that of a trusting, social fellow, more than happy to spend his time being productive in concert with his family and neighbors. And that it is only the few Criminals who deal in unprovoked Savagery against their innocent fellows.