

POEM OF THE WEEK

IN DEFENCE OF BEING HUMAN

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The Judge calls on The Defence to make its Case.

You Honour

Is humanity inherently barbarous?
Developmentally, perhaps. On the pathway to Civilisation,
Humanity went through a time of barbarism,
It was part of their development, physically.
Emotionally and socially. It's synonymous with primitive.

Barbarism, barbarity is a comparative term.
The antonyms of barbarism are kindness.
Niceness, praise, refined, culture.
(The synonyms for "civilisation"?)
The definition of the word, barbarous, is
"to be vicious and cruel or simply uncivilised".
This suggests that barbarism has, at the least,
A troubled relationship with civilisation,

Or, at the most, a complete rejection of it.
The word can describe a terrible, savage act.
like mass murder or torture.
It can also describe people who are uncultured.
Barbarous is the opposite of refined and cultured.
Let me suggest that barbarism is a necessary precondition.
containing the building blocks from which Civilisation came;
And that each step of the process of civilisation went through
Was it in part, or in full, to address a factor of where it came from?

In this respect, barbarism is implicit in the development of civilisation.
Not from what barbarism is; what civilisation must do and should be to escape it.
Barbarism: the term describes an action, not necessarily the notion of intent.
There's the question of choice. Does one choose to be a barbarian?
Consider a group of people trapped in a situation.
Far beyond the reach of civilisation.
Strangers to each other, mistrustful of others,
Traumatised, emotions volatile. Ask them!
Rules as prohibitions, rules as guidelines,
Who's going to apply them? Will they be fair?

Leaders? Who will choose? On what criteria
Will they be selected? Physical prowess?
Intelligence? Technical know-how?
A council of Elders? Rules!

An assorted group of individuals
From different backgrounds and histories,
facing an unknown and an unknowable future
would start creating a network of rules
and/or guidelines to communicate with each other.
understand each other and collectively achieve.
To achieve is to act, to act is to exercise intent.

Intent to be cultured, refined? The state of barbarism
It would evolve to be a new state of being, have its own rules.
With that, its own set of rules would come into a mindset.
Me first or together-everyone-achieves-more?

Who does one feed?
That which is fed will prosper.
Feed negativity to produce more negativity?
Feed the positive. To create more positivity.
There's a choice. A very human choice.

There, your Honour, lay the defence's case:
Choice, the selection of, the evolution of.

The challenges that face humanity are many and complex.
Humanity individually and communally faces these daily
And test incomplete hypotheses. Will this work? Will that work?
And I would add the expression.
"I'm just human", is an expression
Of "I'm trying my best."
Sometimes, that's enough
Other times, it is not

Leslie Bush
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