
Spiritual Rebirth.

A promiscuous-reading freshman calls attention to the following paragraphs by Dr. C. G. Jung in a current magazine.

"Does the western world today stand on the verge of a spiritual rebirth? This is what theologians for several centuries have been crying for; what many of them have professed to see through the fog of doubts, disillusion and despair, like a star glowing in the high heavens.

"I am not a theologian; I am a doctor, a psychologist. But as a doctor, I have had experience with thousands of persons from all parts of the world -- those who came to tell me the stories of their lives, their hopes, their fears, their achievements, their failures.

"Out of my experience with those thousands of patients, I have become convinced that the psychological problem of today is a spiritual problem, a religious problem. Man today hungers and thirsts for a safe relationship to the psychical forces within himself. His consciousness, recoiling from the difficulties of this modern world, lacks a relationship to safe spiritual conditions. This makes him neurotic, ill, frightened. Science has said to him that there is no God, and that matter is all there is. This has deprived humanity of its blossom, its feeling of well-being and of safety in a safe world.

"Look at the world about us, and what do we see? The disintegration of many religions. It is generally admitted that the churches are not holding the people as they did, particularly educated people, who do not feel longer that they are redeemed by a system of theology. The same thing is seen in the old established religions of the East -- Confucianism and Buddhism. Half the temples in Peking are empty. In our western world millions of people do not go to church. Protestantism alone is broken up into four hundred denominations.

"Contrast this state of life and thought with that of the Middle Ages. In those centuries almost everyone went to Mass every morning. The whole life was lived within the church, which became a tremendous outlet of psychic energy.

"Instead, we have today an intricate and complicated life full of mechanical devices for living. A life crowded with motor cars and radios and motion pictures. But none of these things is a substitute for what we have lost. Religion gives us a rich application for our feelings. It gives meaning to life.

"That man in the Middle Ages lived in a meaningful world. He knew that God had made the world for a definite purpose; had made him for a definite purpose -- to get to heaven, or to get to hell. It made sense. Today the world in which all of us live is a madhouse. This is what many people are feeling. Some of those people come to me to tell me so."

Very plainly, then, the world needs Roman Catholicism, the religion of the Middle Ages. It alone offers the "relationship to safe spiritual conditions". And it is founded, not upon vague fancies, but upon the rock of truth. Does Dr. Jung really see that point? Or is it possible that he imagines the religion necessary for the world can be born "from the depths of man's own psychic life?" Santa Claus, Mother Goose, the Big Bad Wolf may be born from man's own psychic life. People will accept that sort of thing. But heaven, hell, the ten commandments, never! There are no substitutes for true spiritual rebirth, no psychological short-cuts to it. The terms are ever the same. True spiritual rebirth means the full and humble acceptance of the way of life left to mankind by Jesus Christ.