

A Word With You

IS OUR salvation going to be through a cultured, educated, well-to-do elite, or through the "common man"?

There is much to say on behalf of an elite, but I have an idea there is more hope in the common man. If we were to divide the social advances of man into two categories, I think we would find that more has been accomplished by ordinary people — sometimes despised, rejected and exiled — than by elites.

One reason for this is that the ordinary man is not so committed to a tightly-woven culture created by the elite, usually on unstable foundations. When societies go awry, it is usually that they have been spoiled by elites. When the pieces are picked up, it is usually by the common man. He is more mobile and adaptable.

Ordinary people just trying to live come to terms more readily with new situations than the upper strata who are too deeply enmeshed in caste or culture. After a war, it is the common people of the opposing countries who relate to one another in a human way, while the high and mighty ones are embroiled in maneuvering and intriguing.

One of the many erratic manifestations of modern times is the freakish art and culture being foisted upon us. It is sometimes called the product of a "mass culture" society — but I do not think it represents the expression of

ordinary people. "Pop" (short for popular) art is *not* popular — it is a perpetration by the smarties. The weird things that pass as art today are patronized by the get-rich-quick crowd who have a hole in the head where their taste bump should be.

The "natural man" may be a figment of the imagination. Here and there we discovered the "noble savage" — some South Sea Islanders, certain North American Indian tribes. Mostly, though, we found distortions, cruelty, personal disfigurements, and ignoble customs. But these were not "primitive" societies, but complex, even decadent, systems lorded over by ruling cliques.

America is on this road, unfortunately. We used to say, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Now we say to the world, "Give me your skilled, your wealthy, your clever elite yearning to join the Organization." The outlook is not as promising as when we depended upon the common man.

It is a question of motivation, and a certain way of looking at things, which ordinary people often do better than the elite. Clever people are usually so busy performing for this mad world's circus, that it may be up to simple ordinary folks to move the world silently on to better things.

—Robert Clancy

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The community, by its presence and activity, gives rental value to land, therefore the rent of land belongs to the community and not to the landowners. Labor and capital, by their combined efforts, produce the goods of the community—known as wealth. This wealth belongs to the producers. Justice requires that the government, representing the community, collect the rent of land for the community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.

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