

## The Spirit of Henry George

—PRISCILLA DUNWIDDY—

Seventy-seven years ago in San Francisco, Henry George wrote an eloquent Ode to Liberty. Liberty has remained, through the years, one of the most cherished ideals of George's followers. If we were to set up an individual aptitude test for measuring one's ability to achieve liberty, we might say it is the degree to which the cosmic, or natural, urge for freedom is kept clear and strong in spite of opposition.

Liberty is a conception of universal truth—freedom may be regarded as the form it takes in individual application.

A person in whom this cosmic spirit of freedom is operative may follow ordinary courses, but with this difference—whatever he does is not an end but a beginning.

He instinctively reaches out to check his progress with the progress of the world in its struggle toward freedom. Often there will be restlessness and dissatisfaction, felt, rather than understood.

### *Racial Responsibility*

His creative nature emerges to help him understand the reason for his restlessness and the meaning of his compulsive action, for he begins to realize he is inseparably linked with the developing life of the race. This insight motivates him to accept and value all thoughts and actions by their influence on human relations.

These pressures will impel him to strive for changes in the direction of freedom. The cost of his actions may sometimes bring not only economic or material loss, but loss of prestige as well. Yet undaunted, he holds to his position.

The person who consistently follows freedom recognizes that it is a possession beyond any market value, and the tenacity with which he would refuse to give this up would be a criterion for measuring his development.

However, the person who respects his own freedom must never regard himself as a isolated unit. The only way to any lasting and satisfactory freedom for the individual is to recognize that he cannot be self centered.

If he is, and if he thinks he is making progress, he will discover that he is simply laying up conflicting forces that will restrict the beginnings of his freedom and endanger, to that degree, the liberty of all.