

Holding The Line

One of the matters often pondered upon in the past fifteen years is whether we as a species are in sufficient numbers self-aware enough to not only cease to personally cause suffering but also to contribute to our societies in such a way that we are or become vectors of a duty sufficiently honourable to prevent or to alleviate the suffering of others in some personal manner.

One example of such a duty I have mentioned several times these past fifteen years is a Police officer, such as this mention from 2012:

"I have some forty years experience of interaction with the police, from ordinary constables and detectives, to custody sergeants, to officers from specialist branches such as SO12, SO13, and crime squads. During that time, I have known far more good police officers than bad - corrupt - ones. Furthermore, I realized that most of those I came into contact with were good individuals, motivated by the best of intentions, who were trying to do their best, often under difficult circumstances, and often to help victims of dishonourable deeds, catch those responsible for such deeds, and/or prevent such deeds." *Some Notes on The Politics and Ideology of Hate*. [1]

Most of this interaction was the result of the suffering-causing deeds I had personally done or had incited by what I wrote, possessed as I was for some forty years by a certitude of knowing, a fanaticism, born of adhering to, believing in, some supra-personal cause, some -ism or some -ology and that extreme lack of self-awareness that such a certitude cultivates and maintains.

In many ways I was much worse than most political or religious extremists because I was, both as a National Socialist and later as a Muslim, an ideologue meaning, in the case of National Socialism, I often arrogantly spurned guidance and then manufactured new guidelines for myself and for others; and as a Muslim having given a personal pledge of loyalty to a particular person, I supported and justified his cause.

"In truth they, those officers, as one of them once said to me, were guided by what 'was laid down' and did not presume to or tried hard not to overstep their authority; guided as they were by the law, that accumulated received wisdom of what was and is good in society; a law which (at least in Britain and so far as I know) sought to embody a respect for what was fair and which concept of fairness was and always has been (again, at least in Britain and so far as I know) untainted, uncorrupted, by any political ideology.

Now I know, I understand, I appreciate, that for that reason - of so being mindful of the limits of their authority, of being guided by what had been laid down over decades - those people, those police officers, were far better individuals than the arrogant, the hubriatic, extremist I was; an arrogant extremist who by and for himself presumed 'to know' what was right, who presumed to understand, who presumed he possessed the ability, the authority, and the right to judge everyone and everything, and who because of such arrogance, such hubris, most certainly continued to contribute to the cycle of suffering, ignoring thus for so long as he in his unbalance did the wisdom that Aeschylus gave to us in *The Oresteia*." [1]

In regard to part of the initial question of whether there are sufficient numbers of sufficient honourable individuals to prevent or able to alleviate the suffering of others in some personal manner, my fallible answer is that there seems to be just enough to 'hold the line' enabling modern societies in the West to maintain societies which currently just about function despite enduring problems such as poverty, homelessness, social disorder, crime, and corrupt politicians one of whose mottos is "do as we say not as we do" as evident for example by a certain British Prime Minister and his cronies during the Covid pandemic.

But for how long will, or can, this line be held? I do not know but - as I listen to *Kyrie Orbis Factor* as performed by Ensemble Organum - I sadly intuit that our current Western societies are following the natural pattern of decline that all other societies in our human history have undergone mostly as a result of our selfish primitive nature unchanged in our majority as we still seem to be by our own pathei-mathos and by that knowledge which resides in our thousands of years-old human culture of pathei-mathos.

I myself through my extremist decades have contributed to this decline. Too little and too late my own pathei-mathos, drowned out, publicly smothered, as it now seems to me to be, by those who cannot forget or cannot forgive the extremism of my past and who with their hubriatic certitude of knowing about me and others perpetuate the cycle of suffering. Whether they know this or not is yet another question, but I am inclined to believe that they do not know such is their hubris and just as I in my hubris did not know for decades.

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[1] <https://davidmyattinfo.files.wordpress.com/2024/03/dm-politics-of-hate-2012.pdf>