

The Power of the Individual

By Samuel Rosinger

I have heard people in diverse walks of life make the assertion that in our complex civilization, with its vast organization, the individual is no longer an independent being who could determine his actions in the light of his judgment and according to the dictates of his conscience, but that he is merely a cog in the wheel of organization and the slave of a system which he must obey willy-nilly.

Business men often claim, they would be delighted to maintain a lofty standard of ethics, but competition compels them to step down from the high peaks of idealism to the street level, for, otherwise, the public that falls for the lure of the cheap glitter, would pass them by. And the same impotence of the individual to follow the moral promptings of his heart, has been stressed to me by men in the professions. The lawyer who stickles for honesty, is doomed to starvation; the doctor who does not prescribe bread pills is without practice; and the minister who fails to truckle to the rich, is condemned to languish in the obscurity of a small pulpit.

I would, indeed, be living in the air-castles of idealism, aloof from the sordid realities of life, were I not to admit that there is a justification for these complaints. Yet, at the same time, let us bear in mind, that virtue has never flourished with the ease with which grass springs up in the field, but that it has ever required careful and painstaking cultivation; that honesty never grows on a low bush, but ripens on the topmost branch of the tall tree of life; that the way to glory is not a primrose path, but a trail covered with briars and brambles.

Yet, notwithstanding the hardships encountered in maintaining a high standard of conduct, no generation has been wanting in heroic individuals who considered it not only their bounden duty, but heaven-bestowed privilege to resist evil and oppose every measure subversive of justice and truth. Evil has always been organized. Men bent upon evil, have always been guided by the herd instinct and sought safety in numbers. The righteous individual had always to fight a wicked system, established by those who batten on the carrion of corruption. Yet, the consecrated will and high purpose and wholehearted dedication of the individual to the cause of honesty and decency, has always routed the forces of evil and will forever demonstrate the imperishable truth that men prevail not by brutal strength, but by the power of righteousness.

Let, therefore, the individual take courage and refuse to lower his standards. By his rugged and resolute independence, he becomes a saviour of the race and the advance guard of a better and brighter day in the history of humanity.

ROTARYGRAMS OF BEAUMONT



WEEKLY BULLETIN

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What Happened

Flanked as we were by the loquacious \$. \$. \$. on the one side and the affable Hyman Perlstein on the other, your reporter was in the proper atmosphere to fully enjoy and appreciate last week's program. What with Rabbi Rosinger acting as chairman for the able tho absent Dr. Scheps, and the lovely and talented Misses Goldstein and Toplitz providing the music, the only rift in the lute was the last minute interjection of Cooke Wilson on the program. Cooke, handsome and debonair as usual, took us through a half dozen storms and a seven course luncheon in his typical Wilsonesque manner. Miss Goldstein was never in better voice, and we can truthfully add, neither was any other singer we have heard at a Rotary meeting. Could we have added a line to her song it would have been, "have you ever heard a dream singing?" And Miss Toplitz really stopped that gabby crowd from gabbing, which is the fartherest point north in the way of a compliment to a guest artist. Our fellow contributor to this pamphlet in the dual role of chairman and principal speaker was his delightful and sincere self, and the spiritual bouquets he passed among us were as sweet and refreshing as the music that preceded him. When the waiter asked Sam "J'you wish coffee?" Sam came back with "Are they even serving Jewish coffee too?"

—Scholemalochem.

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Cooperation!

The secretary appreciates the prompt return of so many questionnaires. The few that are still out are needed this week. If yours is misplaced call Irwin and he will rush another out to you.

—R—

Fate!

Charlie Terrell our general program chairman has placed the reputation of the administration in the following weekly program chairmen's hands:

January	10—Lil Dimmitt
	17—Joe Lederer
	24—Joe Clemmons
	31—Lum Edwards
Feb.	7—Pete McChesney
	14—Harry Shepherd
	21—Annual Birthday Party
	28—John Blakeney
March	7—Roland Jones
	14—Randolph Reed
	21—Paul Tullos
	28—John McGregor
April	4—Capt. Chapman
	11—E. C. McDanald
	18—Dr. R. E. Barr
	25—Gus Scheps
May	2—George Murphy
	9—Lawrence Galewsky
	16—Randolph West
	23—Will Graham
	30—Beeman Strong
June	6—Fuzzy Roane
	13—Chas. Babcock
	20—Chas. Weinbaum

Jim Mapes and Leo Ney are pinch hitting chairmen, subject to call on a moment's notice.

City Has Budget Surplus

While many towns and cities are head over heels in debt and operating in the red, the village of Winnetka, Illinois (population 12,500) operates on a cash basis and continues to show an annual budget surplus; only a small fraction of its legal bonding power has been used.

"For our tax dollars we get more service than any place I know of," says Neil M. Clark, a citizen of Winnetka, in the Rotarian Magazine. "And here's the nubbin of it; we don't pay as high taxes as our neighbors.

"Here's the secret—if you call it such. Some years ago, people here decided they wanted good local government. They found they could have it if they pulled together. We've been pulling together. That's all.

"How we got it," he continues, "is also no secret. We use common-sense business management. Got a good city manager. And back him up. We have a going, efficient government business in which we're all interested. Financially, most of us are just common stockholders. A few are on the board of directors, and turn are taken at that.

"The basis thing is that the ordinary citizen is determined to have this government plant run efficiently. The caucus is an essential part of it, and the caucus as Winnetka uses it, I'm told, is Winnetka's contribution to good municipal government.

"The purpose of the caucus," Mr. Clark explains, "is to pick reliable candidates for the fifteen or twenty elective village offices. The governing body of the village proper is the council (board of trustees, they call it), which consists of six members and the president. This board supervises the general government. Then there's an elective park board, school board, library board, a village clerk, and three or four others.

"The caucus is not an official body. Anybody who years to can start a rival caucus. But it has always done its work so well that nobody has had the yearn. It is composed of twenty-five members. Two from each precinct, five chosen at large. It is thoroughly representative. Nobody dominates it. Partisan politics play no part. The sole aim is to find the best man for each job.

"If any man shows signs of wanting to be elected to a certain office, it's as sure as certain that the caucus won't choose him. Because it's the man who never thought of holding public office that they want."—From the Rotarian Magazine.