

THE NECESSITY OF CHIVALRY IN THE MODERN AGE

From addiction to smart phones to selfish government, our world is rotting... Greed grows as the norm to life: the expectation of life. As with the dawn of time, civilisation is slithering into a state of nature. Why is this happening?

Few consciously wish to harm themselves, and yet it is the majority that acts in this way. Like all evils in life, it is not intention but ignorance which tarnishes the path of happiness: the ultimate aim of man.

Since the fall of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1815, the world has grown more mediocre. Man cares less for quality, and less still for the strength of his friendships. Noble ideals which commanded the praise of peers and strangers alike lie suffused in the abyss of neglect. And with this neglect for nobility, a neglect of civilisation.

Many have come to abandon nobility — that great nobility which delivered the city of Troy to the Achaians, Persia to Alexander the Great and Jerusalem to those first crusaders — for a petty hedonism which seeks only to maximise the greatest quantity of pleasure for the individual alone.

But happiness does not lie in pleasure. Nor does it lie in the accident of birth. Happiness lies in heroism. It is only by taking up and defending chivalry that the materialism of the modern age will find the meaning it desperately seeks: as once was taken for granted in holy Christendom.

I write to you not only at a Pitt, but as a knight of our most sacred Order of the Temple. Though I am young, Nature has granted me an affable diligence in intellectual virtue which affords me a wisdom few my age, or even those older than I, have yet achieved.

It take no genius to realise our world is far from good health: spiritually, politically, socially... The real cause of this poison is ignorance. An ignorance of the simple truth that happiness lies in a heroic life. It is by mastering nature's virtues that man will learn the way to a fulfilled life. It is by rejecting chivalry, rejecting praiseworthy acts, that we condemn ourselves and our fellow Christians to a deplorable chaos of spirit and mind. And with it, our world.

As Nature has proved time and time again — be it the works of Aristotle or the humble observation of the daisy or the ant at work — chivalry is necessary for the happiness of any age. The essential virtues of chivalry are courage, wisdom and justice. Let us examine these in turn to learn the need for chivalry in our modern age.

We turn first to courage. By courage, we mean a pleasurable disposition to danger, or in simpler terms a voluntary choice to run into danger. There are many examples of courage in history. On the one hand, Marcus Aurelius: Emperor of Rome who devoted his entire life to extinguishing political intrigues amongst economic depravity and a gruesome war against the barbarians of the north. On the other hand, Queen Elizabeth I's calm example in defending England from Spanish invasion. Courage is the virtue that grows men. That makes men... By choosing danger, it allows man to grow into something better, something more meaningful than he was the day before; riding the

waves of bravery to improve the livelihood of himself and his friends and neighbours. In many ways, courage is the most important virtue because it is the foundation on whose back all other virtues are carried. Without courage, there is no continued success. Without courage, there is no victory. And so courage is a necessary component of chivalry.

In addition to courage, wisdom — the king of intellectual virtues — is necessary for achieving a heroic life. Heroes are made as much in their competence as they are in their gallantry. To be wise is to be master of the mind: to know and to apply the universal laws of cause and effect to one's particular circumstance. It is by submitting to this great chain of being — the will of God — that wisdom truly manifests itself. It was by wisdom that King David was anointed King of the Jews. It was by this same wisdom that the apostles and saints lived the word of Christ. To be wise is to be mindful of the nature of one's actions, and how they relate to the wider context of honourable deeds. Wisdom is the bride of courage — the mind's treasury of strength — and together they are the bright path to heroism. The path to happiness...

With courage and wisdom explored, the final essential, and most important virtue of all, is justice. By justice, we mean living the truth. Truth is to align one's words with one's acts; that which is said has or is or will manifest itself factually at its given point in time. It is when lies creep in, dishonesties splatter themselves, that justice caves into injustice: that good becomes evil. There is no greater sin than a lie: to say something is what it is not. It is by Adolf Hitler having told himself that he was the great liberator of mankind that by his dishonesty, he brought about his own downfall. And as cause and effect proved, his downfall was the will of God. It is in a similar fashion that families are destroyed, and relationships spoiled, by the little lies that spread into deadly tumours. Justice is the aim of all honourable men. Justice is the death of mediocrity. Justice is the fuel of heroism.

With chivalry, the modern age will find happiness. Without it, we condemn ourselves and our children to materialism: a wretched life whereby success is measured in the number of futile trinkets we hold for our brief existence instead of the glimmer of praiseworthy acts that stay with us for this life and the next. My friends, the noble life is the happy one. Through courage, wisdom and justice, you will find happiness with every step of your life. The alternative is complacency... And history proves complacency, hand in hand with ignorance, is the fall of all civilisations.

So have courage, grow wise and live justice.