

Concerning the High Indifference

In naming a certain level of Consciousness as the State of High Indifference the designation is based upon the affective characteristic of the state rather than upon its noetic value. All of the ordinary states of consciousness are characterized by affective complexes that are distinguishable from other affective complexes, each having a distinct affective character. Thus, the state may be predominantly joyous, or one that is depressive; a state where the feeling of anger predominates, or one of considerateness, etc. In every such case the predominant affective quality gives direction to will-action and movement toward or away from a certain object results. Only rarely does man experience a waking state of consciousness that is not thus given an affectively conditioned direction. So much so is this the case that we quite commonly mean by human consciousness such a state where some affection or complex of affections predominates. It is the necessary basis of all purposive outlooks.

Under very depressed ~~xxx~~ states of consciousness there may be a more or less complete absence of affective tone. In this case the individual sinks into a dull indifference where there is no affective tension whatsoever. This we may call the state of affective ~~silence~~ in the inferior sense. But there is a superior kind of Indifference having a diametrically opposite significance. This state is reached when the affective qualities are developed and active as a totality so that the resultant is a balance at high tension. Since there is balance there is no purpose^{ne} direction given to the consciousness. But since all the affective powers are awake and active, the state is one of high tension of force. Since the state is balanced as a whole

no one affective quality characterizes it in its totality, but if its interior composition is analysed, all the affective qualities will be found actively manifested. This state is the culmination of human affective evolution. At the same time it becomes the base or zero-point of another kind of evolution, where the affections stand below and therefore at the command of the individual, but the self-conscious field of the individual is not dominated by any of them. The evolution now enters a cycle that is trans-human, where consciousness functions through modes quite other than those that are understandable to human consciousness.

What kind of a being is it whose ~~high~~-affective base is the High Indifference? Apparently there is more than one class of entities representing different possible branchings off of the human stem. All of these are beings who first must have been men before they could become more than men. In one sense they might be called gods, but this term is not very satisfactory. They have power over the human field, but their own focus of consciousness is in quite a different domain. From the standpoint of passionate human consciousness they would naturally seem to be cold, but this is merely the effect of a state of affective balance when viewed from the perspective where one or more affections are predominant.