

Interlude
**Several Ephemeral Thoughts on
Tolerance and Peace**

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The fluctuating dynamism of tolerance must be taken into account in order to understand the nature of peace. Attraction and repulsion, which influence our external and internal worlds in the manner of heavenly bodies, are the forces at work here.

Every living being is equipped with a certain inner ambience and potential for growth, which is linked to genetic, environmental and educational factors. We are all subject to forces that can increase our vulnerability to sicknesses of mind and emotion. If this were not the case, how could we account for these terrifying and pathetic outbursts of hatred, these longings for murder, self-destruction and madness, these desires to torture and cause suffering to one's self and others for no reason?

It is not only the abuse of privileges, but the abuse of prejudices, that goes largely unpunished. We lack the determination required to reform our attitudes toward tolerance. In fact, we tolerate many intolerable things and perversely pour out our helpless intolerance on society's most vulnerable. And it is often our leaders, skilled at turning the dangerous energies of intolerance on others, who push us to act in this way.

Before we begin to criticize, moralize, and accuse, let us for the moment investigate the intolerable and the limits of tolerance. The intolerant play an important role in this world. They always have. How much better it could be if only they would play a constructive role, maturing and joining with tolerance in order to strengthen it, not annihilate it.

I hail the heavenly rebel. And yet even the heavenly rebel must temper his action with prudence and wisdom, with philosophy,

which often expresses itself in symbols and parables alone. Often these rebels must hide, doing their work in the shadows while the dictators are glorified by marching soldiers who sober up in drinking binges, and in so doing remain tolerable to their Masters.

Humans are essentially dreamers, possessed by memory and imagination. More than anything, they are creators and, consequently, destroyers, whose sublime efficacy is revealed above all in the creation in art and life of human beings themselves, followed by their destruction.