

## WHAT IS THE STRONGEST TABLE OF VALUES?

Ideology is the enemy of mankind. Within reason, there is a hierarchy of understanding. Reason begins with facts. These facts are perceived, then interpreted, by man. These interpretations lead to assumptions, and assumptions to conclusions. From here, men create beliefs; beliefs which cause their actions. It is this dependence on sensory fact, or first causes and principles, where value begins. Fact is the truth of value.

The vile alternative to fact, which continues to plague the world — family by family, is ideology. Ideology ignores fact. Ideology begins with assumption, weakening, corrupting, corroding person after person after person; until all follow the blind obedience of one man's interpretation of the world. Ideology is a disease. Ideology is a lie.

Strength exists in nature and in mind. The latter, however, is a part of the former. Nature lays out a hierarchy of acts that will help or hinder the successes of man. And, ultimately, his happiness. So the strongest table of values is the natural law. Whilst present assumptions, reality and actuality suggest otherwise, the universal truth of natural law continues to hold out against these three chief modern hedonistic ideologies.

The assumed strongest table of values is Marxism. Man's recent obsession for equality — without fully understanding it — has lead many to assume Marxism is the utopian, and therefore final purpose of mankind. Marxism assumes all men are equal, and oppressed by the rich. To Marxists, kingdoms, churches and schools are simply factories: with the rich, and now the powerful, wont to abuse their positions to exploit the relatively poor for their private benefit. That, in short, all men in authority are oligarchic tyrants. Because of this, the poor must, out of envy, kill the rich, steal their gold and return to the ruby raining state of nature. And yet, how can we call the state of nature a strong realm? How can rule by many for self serve the common interest? How can anarchy lead to happiness? In the short term, and especially in the long term, states work best when they serve the common interest. It is the purpose of states to be happy by nature. And happiness in states lies in strength, unity and independence. And so, the universal natural law trumps the general ideology of Marxism. For in all states, they will keep the peace and defend the realm, or the state will cease to exist. The contract of law binds the universal needs of citizens together, and grants them freedoms other than purely the will to power. And so, with man's aim for happiness, Marxism fails to be man's strongest table of values.

Having addressed the assumed, now let us look at the real assumptions men make on the strongest table of values. It is often heard across the streets of Christendom that all men should aim for the greatest happiness of the greatest number. That is, in short, men should be utilitarians. How can man guarantee this? For a man controls only his body. With heavy persuasion, a man can persuade another to do something involuntarily (that is, against his will) or non voluntarily (that is, out of ignorance). Nevertheless, in all other matters, a man controls his own body. In the same way, a flower controls its petals and shoots, or a lion its paws and its limbs. And whilst few are at ease with happiness, that activity of the soul in accordance with perfect virtue, many confuse it for its more accomplishable cousin: amusement. And so, because a man is unable to control the affairs of

another, utilitarians' fundamental assumption is flawed; and therefore fails to make men happy. Utilitarianism fails to be the strongest table of values.

With assumption and reality explored, the next province to visit is the actual assumed strongest table of values. In perfect alignment with Aristotle's definition, the true nature of most men is oligarchical. Most men are characterised by property, or its acquisition, in pursuit of money. It is a state ruled by few — the rich or powerful — for their private interests. And in these properties comes assumed ways of doing things. Things such as capitalism which assumes states are, as Marxists fear, simply factories. Then if this is so, what are we to say of letters? Of poetry, music and art? Of sport, justice and war? Of custom and virtue? For it is these, maximised in quality and quantity, which cause happiness. For virtue is the name we give to this universal fact of nature. Money, amongst other things, is only a means to this end. Hence, so often, we hear the tale of the sad millionaire against the happy suburban family. It is virtue, rather than wealth, which determines happiness in life. And yet, its difficult reality is only few will achieve it. It is these persons, the happy few, that we truly call aristocrats. And who deserve the praise, and become the inspiration, of all. And so nature, in particular the aristocratic constitution, is the strongest means to live a happy life.

Marxists, utilitarians and oligarchs hold their ideologies are the route to happiness. Nature holds virtue is the narrow path to this activity of the soul. The essence of happiness is virtue; money is only its servant, and ideology its fuel for comedy. To maximise one's virtues, to follow the careful observations of Aristotle, will lead to happiness. To assume is to die in long drawn pain. Read Aristotle, read the Bible, read the Iliad, imitate the virtues of great men and live your happy life.