

Nature sends a private warning only to the threatened victim. The results would be exactly the same if a person capable of discrimination were to fail to act on its guidance.

Another child fails to develop any discrimination for sound. He is deaf and dumb, and destined to suffer all the tragedy which that implies. He is spared the alarm of startling noises, whether it be an explosion or the warning of a rattlesnake. He is protected from having to endure an off note in a symphony, but in being relieved from suffering off notes he is also prohibited from ever enjoying a harmony. In being saved the alarm of noises, he must forego the sound of warnings. He is victimized by his own inability to discriminate.

WISDOM MEANS DISCRIMINATION

DISCRIMINATION was said by Gautama Buddha to be the greatest essential human virtue. Truly it is a blessing — a blessing that is also in harmony with Judeo-Christian ideals. It is necessary to progress and to the advancement of civilization.

Many of the leading problems of our day, I believe, stem from a thought-disease about discrimination. It is well known that discrimination has come to be widely scorned. And politicians have teamed up with those who

scorn it, to pass laws against it — as though morals can be manufactured by the pen of a legislator and the gun of a policeman.

What is this thing, this discrimination, which has become so widely dubbed as an evil?

Discrimination is the exercise of choice. It necessarily arises from knowledge and wisdom. And the greater the knowledge and wisdom, the higher the degree of discrimination. Visualize a person who can discriminate nothing. He would be as a stone! He would have no capacity for choice, no ability to guide any of his own affairs or to be in any degree his own master through self-controlled and independent acts. He would be utterly and wholly dependent, if indeed he could live. He would be as much the slave of others as is a stone the slave of the winds, the floods, and chemical changes — incapable of any selective control of his place in the universe.

NATURE DEMANDS DISCRIMINATION

MAN WAS OBVIOUSLY intended to be a discriminating being. But the animals, too, have this capacity for discrimination. We know how certain animals have one or another of the senses developed to an even higher degree than Homo sapiens.