

THE EVOLUTION AND THE LIMITS *of* POWER

Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. The origin of power is traceable not to any one nation or group but to the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Looking at some of the definitions of power, which include the physical strength or force exerted by someone or something as well as the ability or capacity to direct or influence the behavior of others or the course of events, one gets instructed to believe that power does not exist in a vacuum. It is designed to get work done or to bring about an outcome that serves as the end result of a desire by man, groups, or nations of the world.

Power, no matter how much, is good, healthy, and peaceful in the absence of competition. Competition is what makes power to be used for achieving negative outcomes. The reason behind the use of power to achieve a negative outcome is a question that needs answers from all and sundry.

How can power be used to direct the behavior of others? The moment that the target of the use of power is towards others, the outcome can definitely either be good or bad. Terrorism, as discussed earlier, is an unlawful use of violence or intimidation against innocent civilians. This behavior is not limited to a group of people with certain ideological beliefs alone. As we have seen over a period of time, leaders of nations as well as aggrieved individuals are also not exempted from the use of power to rain terror on people as well as nations.

With the observed competitions going on in the world that we are in today, especially among the superpowers prominent among which are the United States, China, and Russia, it is therefore not out of place that the action of one against the other is capable of having a chain effect on the behavior and reaction of so many others. Action begets reactions and there is no smoke without fire.

Take, for instance, the case of the COVID-19 pandemic which is believed to have originated in China. Although there is no evidence yet that the pandemic was used by China as an act of terrorizing the other superpowers, especially America, nonetheless, it is not out of place for people who are politically sensitive and perceptive to think and consider the pandemic as a weapon of war, especially because no satisfactory answer has been given to the question of why a disease that is believed to have originated from an animal can be so deadly and destructive to the extent of trying to bring the human existence into extinction.

If people who are called terrorists can go to the extent of engaging a suicide bombing, which involves the taking of their own lives in the course of trying to kill others, what makes it unbelievable and unthinkable that a nation like China, which is in serious competition with America, cannot inoculate a group of people with the Coronavirus for them to take into the other parts of the world as suicide bombers would do to destroy as many lives as possible of their opponents, rivals, or competitors? There is no extent to which unhealthy competition cannot lead people to. If countries of the world that are considered powerful can accumulate dangerous weapons that can destroy millions of lives at a go as well as cause unprecedented destruction on the entire globe, what stops another country in competition from devising other means of weapons of mass destruction?

Think of the country from where the Coronavirus originated, and also think of the country that lost the most lives, and ponder on the evils that unhealthy competition can lead the world to. Power has its limits only in the source of life (God) and as long as man continues to strive toward the accumulation of it to achieve selfish goals and ends, then the level to which its quest can go will be unlimited and unimaginable. Competition leads to retaliation all in the name of trying to prove superior and to exercise domination. What is considered the most dangerous weapon of destruction, which is the



nuclear weapon, is far from being the ultimate, for as man is inclined towards achieving superiority over others, there is no imaginable end that cannot be reached. In the animal kingdom, there are animals that are considered stronger than the others, for power is in degrees. The difference between the animal kingdom and the human kingdom is that the animals do not need to strive to dominate others; they only strive to maintain the status quo, living as who they were created to be, in places they were created to live in, and with those they were created to live with. As long as the lion remains in his den, it is considered to be the king of the forest. As long as the eagle lives within its habitat, it is considered to be the strongest of all birds. As long as the crocodile remains in its habitat, it will remain stronger than a lizard even though they look alike. There is no end to the thirst and hunger for power, and the thirst and hunger, in that direction, can never be satisfied.

The unhealthy competition and the insatiable quest for power and domination only paint a picture of a lack of contentment and ungodliness.

When people and nations have the fear of God as the ultimate and by extension put their trust in God, then the weapons of war will only be a secondary way of defending themselves and their nations. The presence of fear is the absence of faith, and for God to take over the affairs of any nation, that nation must be ready to hand over its affairs to God. The best alliance is the one with God for in that alone is a failure-proof assurance.

The Russia-Ukraine War is possible because Russia knew well enough that the intervention of any of the superpower countries or NATO militarily would only result in the Third World War. Ukraine is at the mercy of Russia, and if Russia cannot be defeated then Ukraine stands to pay dearly for its miscalculations. This is what is called the fight of the two elephants where the grass suffers. Ukraine is not an elephant but Russia is. The world is in the hands of the superpowers but God remains the owner of the heavens and the earth, the only source of power, and the only one who can give and take away.

Peace is only possible and achievable in the absence of unhealthy competition and avoidable power struggles. Until this is sought after in all sincerity and without hypocrisy, the world will not be a suitable place to live and will be in a precarious situation.



Just as power is in degrees, so is terrorism. Everybody should cut his coat, not according to his size but according to his cloth. Power is transient, but love is eternal.

Man can only run away from others but not himself. No matter how wicked a tree is, it must be ready to live in the forest and with other trees. That is humanity. We are different from animals, but more often than not, behave less than animals.

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