

man what the Lord hath prepared for them that love him.'” His words bathed the group in benediction. The ensuing silence was unbroken until the “heads of the meeting” shook hands, thus signifying the end of the service.

§ § § §

## Society to the Majority and the Minority

Robert Malsberry

**N**o one can deny that man has obligations to society, but how does man define his obligations?

There is a large group made up of individuals who interpret man's obligation to society as an obligation in trivial affairs. Certainly, they think it is their neighborly duty to keep their lawn the same height as the lawn next door. They would never burn trash when someone's wash was drying. They paint their house when the others do. To try to keep up with but not “out-do” their neighbors is their goal. They say they want to be accepted by society, but they have narrowed the meaning of society considerably. To them society is their own secure community. It is to a smaller group who have a vague sense of real duty to whom I appeal.

To them society is not their neighbors, nor is it solely the majority—it is mankind. This group needs re-vitalization and encouragement, for the hope of the world rests with them. They realize that trivial daily duties must be performed, but they also know that time must remain for more important accomplishments.

I felt horrified when I first began to realize that the larger group or majority are irresponsible. I became aware of this fact during the last war when, in a day coach, I chanced to start a conversation with a successful, seemingly intelligent businessman. As our talk began to include recent war news, I was shocked to hear him advocate the death of every German and Japanese as the goal of the war. When I asked him to elaborate, he grew quite boisterous and emphatically stated that every German and Japanese citizen, children and old people included, should be killed before the war ended. A few citizens around us agreed, but a greater number did not care to comment.

These persons are typical of the majority. They represent either the fanatical nationalists or the remote isolationists.

It is indeed surprising to realize how little man really cares about or understands his fellow men. He has little appreciation for the problems of others. How many Americans want displaced persons to enter our country? How many care about or even know about the plight of the Greeks? In the present world situation many persons can see little hope for peace. Instead of trying to develop an appreciation for all mankind, some have lost their sense of values. "Live today and die tomorrow" is their philosophy.

An escape from nationalism and isolationism in individual American citizens and the cultivation of general world-wide concern are necessities. Since the first step in any method is an appreciation of the problem, understanding and cooperation between the majority and minority are essential. Whenever opportunity offers, the minority must foster unification of the two factions by persuading the majority of their duty to mankind. Thus everyone may make and get a start on the road to world-wide understanding and good will.

§ § § §

## Michelangelo's God

He stamped across the universe  
 And thrust His hand into a sun  
 That kissed His palm with ardent rage  
 Then glowing, blushed, and died a stone

He walked across the galaxies  
 Drinking stardust as He went  
 Debauching on the liquor turned  
 To bitter gall in a gentle mouth.

Great stars He burst in drunken blows  
 Split the mangers' vestal light  
 And over the years shewed flame  
 That rent the veil of blinded man.

—Basil Raymond