

Thought for the Day

Louise Haney

THE small man waited nervously at the front of the bank. I would have passed any other man in that same location, but this man caught my attention. His face was pock-marked and carried bluish scars across the left cheek, forehead, and jaw. The right portion of his face was normal except for a slight disfiguration which pulled the lips down until the skin was taut.

The busy people of the city pushed by as he stood. The few who looked at him quickly averted their gazes and hurried by. Every time someone looked in his direction, the small man made an effort to speak, but the few words uttered were lost in the noise of taxi horns, shuffling feet, automobile engines, and growling city busses. As I approached, he bowed his head and muttered, audibly but to himself, "I must tell someone. I must tell someone. Someone must listen."

Out of pity, compassion, and curiosity, I asked the man if I could help him. With a grimace intended for a smile, he quickly nodded and launched into his speech. "Yes, do listen to me. It was horrible. They dropped it on us and we died in three stages. First we died instantly, then slowly; then the living died mentally."

Seeing my questioning look, he hurried on. "I am from Hiroshima. These scars will be with me for the rest of my life. My legs are crippled and will never move me again. I want nothing for myself. We were victims of fate. If the first atomic bomb had not fallen on our city, it would have destroyed another. You must listen to me, not for my sake but for the sake of others. Tell your people to use this power constructively. Don't take the lives of people."

The man's shoulders sagged; he bowed his head and waved me away. I turned, and my footsteps mingled with the others hurrying along the sidewalk.

The Moral Responsibility of Man

Karen Wortley

EACH of us has been endowed by our Creator with certain privileges which in turn provide certain responsibilities. By using these privileges, we may become one of two types of people. We may become a person who belongs to that class of society which prides itself in doing as little as possible in order to exist, or one may become a person who chooses to use his privileges and also to uphold them by accepting his responsibilities. When God created the amoeba, He formed an animal without a voice, without a mobile body, without an adaptable structure, and without an intelligence quotient comparable to that of a human being. As God advanced in