

come a fresh start. One of these days will find me standing proudly atop that mountain, the highly cherished prize and goal of an intense desire.

A Letter to Humanity

Dyann Robinson

I HAVE a theory about the Eichman trial. To me the man Adolph Eichman is not just a man any more, but a symbol. He represents mankind. Yet you exhibit much weeping and gnashing of teeth concerning his gross and atrocious crimes against the human race. Oh, you hypocrite! Do you not realize that in pointing your accusing finger at Eichman you point at your mirrored image? The man is your offspring, the child whom your follies have nourished and encouraged since the beginning of human society. Eichman is the finished product, and you disown him? Anything he has done you can attribute to yourself; he has worked with the tools of false principles and warped concepts of what is right and wrong which you have designed and made available.

It was you who gave him the alibi that should, according to your own laws, set him free. Eichman claims that he was a subordinate officer, and that his activities as the S.S. Colonel, Chief of the Gestapo, and head of Jewish Affairs were a direct result of his execution of orders issued by his superior command and his government. If this is true, and such proof has been offered, we cannot hold him personally responsible for all the crimes he has allegedly committed. Mankind has traditionally accepted anything done under the auspice of duty as justifiable, particularly duty to one's government. Personal satisfaction in carrying out that duty does not alter the fact that the man is protected as guaranteed by his adherence to that duty. To deny this would be to accuse every soldier who ever took up arms of being a murderer. If duty were not the almighty alibi, what could we say in defense of the American who pressed the button that released the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in the Second World War?

You ask, "Since Eichman was doing his duty in compliance with the will of his government, should not blame for these dispicable deeds be placed on that government?" The deeds were undeniably infamous, but what pre-established law forbade the Nazi regime its action? The seemingly logical answer would be adherence to the universal and fundamental moral law of all mankind, but for centuries the moral code, if any, which binds each individual has had no effect at all on the individual en masse, the government. It is as if nations and empires have been and are being run with free abandon, with no regard for any higher law than themselves. The unpunished crimes committed by governments fill and overflow the turbulent

pages of history. Examine as excellent examples the deeds of violation of human rights done by the great Roman Empire and, in more modern history, the British Empire. These crimes go unpunished because you, Humanity, have failed to realize that governments *are* humanity, whether in the form of a dictatorship, a monarchy, a democracy, or any other. You regard them as impersonal representatives of the masses and, in this manner, justify all that they do as necessary and consequently excusable. War is an example of this. It could be candidly defined as an activity engaged in by man and his governmental bodies, usually involving the murder of one or more human beings by others, as the necessary means to an end. You see, you, in the form of governments, have given unique connotations to the phrase "human rights," and to the words "morals" and "principles." The Nazi dictatorship, therefore, was no exceptional violator of any rule; it simply carried out *tradition* with more preciseness than usual.

It is you, Humanity, who have allowed this world to become corrupt and who have justified that corruption. Every concept of human decency has been gradually twisted and mutilated until right and wrong no longer have meaning—until the only way a right can be achieved is to commit a wrong. This is how much of a maze you are in. Eichman is not primarily a cause of this situation; he is a direct result. The guilt of his deeds rests on your shoulders, Humanity, and the legacy of that guilt rests on the shoulders of your posterity.

Of course you will find Eichman guilty as charged of crimes against the human race because he is your scapegoat; he is the means by which you will, to all appearances, escape facing yourself for the time being. The whole Eichman episode will not have been a total loss, however, for it brings to light an interesting point—fate seems to have a way of punishing. It has punished nations and cruel rulers and leaders in the past by allowing them either to destroy themselves or to create their own punishment. Perhaps history is again repeating itself. Ironically enough, Humanity, *you* are the master criminal, and Eichman, your own masterpiece, has become the most fitting punishment for your crimes.

A PROMISE BROKEN

A broken promise is like a fragment of colored glass that sparkles
worthlessly in your fingers;

It is a beautiful remnant that bites unexpectedly into your hand
and causes the blood to mingle on its tear-magnified surface,
But soon the tear is retrieved, the glass, misplaced;

Only the scar is yet visible to the mind's eye.

—SUSIE PUETT