

THE CHILD: I do not understand why I must fear knowledge. What will I find when I am a Man?

THE MAN: You will find nothing—a vast and dark and lonely and mocking nothingness. You will learn that there are no answers to the questions which you have been blindly asking. You will know that your only reward is death.

THE CHILD: Can I escape? Can I remain the Child?

THE MAN: There is no escape, for, by your very nature, you must search and find and fear.

THE CHILD: I am the Man.

The Use of Thought

Linda Dodson

A MAN'S existence would be meaningless if he had no end in view. One who lives merely to say that he exists misses the experiences which make him an active part of man. The restricted person is like one who sets out on a narrow course—he sails between the Symplegades, being either crushed by its own narrowness or barely squeaking between the great bulk on both sides. It is better to find oneself amazed at the immensity of the ocean than to feel satisfied by a sheltered stream. But many do row unseeing and ignorantly through the middle of life without having touched it, hurrying through it as through these ancient cliffs—ignorant, wary, frightened, expecting and perhaps even welcoming defeat.

But there is no need to fear new things. It is not necessary to know everything, but one should be consciously aware of the broad scope of ideas and be willing to step into new experiences; by correlating and evaluating these two, he may then attempt to explain the meaning of his existence. In this way he can profit from life, as life will certainly profit from such a thinking individual.

To the individual who attempts this all things are useful. All things will directly or indirectly serve his purpose; the insignificant experience and idle thought will find meaning and application. He will realize that the best way to grow is to think with freedom, calculation, evaluation, and affection, with an eye for the obvious and hidden, the practical and unworkable, and the position which he holds in relation to other people.

It is not what a man does that matters but what he would do and attempts to do. Perhaps the goal is one that cannot humanly be realized. Still, every step up overcomes one more obstacle and a well-intentioned attempt takes on meaning as it becomes a reality.