

# THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING HUMAN

## Introduction

To be human is to be fallible and imperfect. It is to be susceptible to the full range of feelings, strengths and weakness of which man is capable. In a strange and paradoxical way, the discovery of our imperfection is also the discovery of perfection. The means of making that discovery is awareness.

In the awareness and acceptance of our imperfection there is peace. Our humanness is neither divine nor merely an animal. It is not eternal, but, finite. It is that which we leave behind when we die. Then another and higher aspect of what we are takes over. Often overlooked and easily denied, it is the essence of living in the physical and the concrete. For some reason, our human imperfection seems to bring shame and guilt if it is exposed to our selves and to others. Its one great asset is the ability to raise questions and by questioning to look through its experience. Its singular great power is that of choice. If it is sensitive enough in the working of its spirit, it is compelled to look deeply within itself and at the same instance to look above and beyond itself.

We use our intellect to reason and interpret our feelings. We concoct rules for behavior and codes for conduct. We develop belief structures to gain control over our joys and sorrows, our passions and our struggles, and our strengths and weaknesses. In so doing, we often miss the true nature of being human. Being human means we are imperfect and fallible. At one and the same moment, within the experience of our human being, we are confronted with the extremes of our human existence. In experiencing life we are confronted with an internal prodding and an external provoking. Within each life experience there is the full range of feelings, strengths and weaknesses of which we are capable.

Exposed to ourself, the awareness of our human situation may cause us to silently cry out. In that cry you hear the sound of the finite, fallible and weakness of our person. And you can hear the spiritual nature of our person lift its voice and expectation beyond itself toward God.

My writings express my personal experience of being human. My experiences as an individual tell a story in which others can potentially identify themselves. Questions and observations about life, God, relationships and one's Self form a mosaic from which thoughts and feelings emerge.

Underlying all things are the dynamics of personal faith and hope. And, of course, the greatest energy both stated and unstated is that of love. Therefore, all three books begin with the seminal statement, "The Experience of Love."

And so, within the experience of being human, our person sings its song of faith, hope and love.

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