

The Spiritual State of Humanity

Gaining as much renown as one of the greatest representatives of realist literature as he did as a philosopher and teacher, Russian writer-thinker Tolstoy (1828-1910) is an artist and intellectual in global terms.

In his book called "Resurrection", the famous author, who opposed the classification of people as good or evil, gives the following description: **"People are like rivers. The water is always the same but the river is narrow in some places and wider in others. It flows at a slack pace in one spot and rapid in another. Its water is sometimes clear, sometimes murky, sometimes cold, sometimes warm."**

People are the same. Each person carries within him every human trait or flaw. Nevertheless, in any situation, one or the other of these traits manifests itself. At times, a human may behave in ways unfamiliar to himself, as opposed to constantly being the same person.

It is important that all forms of fear, conceit, and superiority are curbed/subjugated in order for human traits to kick in. As Saint Paul wrote, **"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."**

In the spirit of true love and self-control, there are virtues like compassion, mercy, fairness, fidelity, helping each other, protection, nurture, guardianship, appreciation, sharing....

Because love -to love- is not merely a feeling. It is a way of living and doing things with self-control. A loving person serves life through a

consistent character and self-confidence that they create within themselves. They smile at life. They defeat every form of conceit and superiority. They see others as their equals. They strive for a healthy and safe society.

For they have experienced the inner peace that comes with being oneself.

I wish you all a healthy tomorrow in which all can be more truly themselves.

Yusuf Beğtaş