

## # 9: "The end justifies the means."

Great Britain does not go to heaven. Neither does General Electric Corporation, nor the Presbyterian Church, nor the Green Party. No groups may enter, and no causes either. Only the souls of human beings live on in other realms of glory. The entrance exam at the Pearly Gates does not cover how well one's favorite football team did last year nor how well one's portfolio did last quarter. There are no qualifications based on what was built, whether skyscrapers or pyramids; nor on what was accomplished, be it world peace or environmental devastation.

All of which does not mean that one's actions do not matter. Actions matter very much, for they are strong indicators of intent; but the *results* of those actions matter very little. When you look back on your life on Earth, you will feel little or no pride in your material accomplishments, but you will be pleased — or displeased — with what you have become.

In the end, the only thing that counts is the quality of a person's character. This is evaluated according to how well that person followed his or her conscience. Violating that inherent sense of right and wrong will negatively affect future judgement — even when done for "a good cause." This is because causes don't count in heaven. According to a consensus of spirit testimony,<sup>1</sup> political arrangements, religious creeds, cultural practices, and such, are of no concern in the non-material realms. That means that carnage and/or deception cannot be justified in the name of democracy, or divine dictates, or free health care. Each of the measures one employs to achieve an end must be justifiable unto itself, and cannot be defended by the intended final result.

The Jesuits were wrong; the end does *not* justify the means.

For example, you might claim that it is okay to instill fear and mental trauma in school children because you thereby can create disciplined and well-ordered minds which are

properly infused with the teaching of mother church. But it is of no matter whether submissive and indoctrinated children are a worthy goal or not. Harming children, or anyone, with threats and lies is a violation of conscience and cannot be justified.

The justification for killing can be a bit more complex. Firstly, there is the matter of *who* is being killed. The commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," was written by priests who directed the killing of hundreds of thousands of people with (so they thought) both the blessing and the assistance of their fearsome god. Clearly, that ancient directive only prohibited the killing of fellow Jews. Some claim that it is immoral to kill anything; but I find that view tough to justify in a world where the survival of every animal requires it to kill (or destroy) other living things, be they cabbages or kings or all things in between.

As I understand, it isn't *who* or *what* you kill that matters, but *why*. The operative parameter is motivation. Killing animals for food is okay; killing animals for sport is not. To keep a clear conscience, only the immediate threat of severe injury or death to you or to those within your care is sufficient motivation for killing another person.

The above statement leaves considerable room for interpretation, which I leave to others. My point is that any injurious behavior — be it killing, stealing, fraud, or simply being unkind — cannot be excused by adherence to a faith, allegiance to a country, belief in a principle, or a struggle for justice. When you pass through the door of physical death, your conscience rules supreme, and it judges only on means taken without consideration of ends sought. You cannot hide from your conscience forever, so best be true to it now.

"The ends justify the means" is a most insidious lie which has been used to defend vast numbers of egregious acts both personal and

global. It should be challenged and corrected whenever it arises.

### **An Aryan Analogy**

Speaking of Jews, the fact of reincarnation might give some people the idea that those millions murdered during the Holocaust were paying for their past slaughter of the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Bashans, the Midianites, and numerous other cities and tribes, as described in the Old Testament. By that view, the Nazi officers who designed and ran the death camps would be reincarnated souls who were slaughtered in those Hebrew conquests. For the sake of illustration, let's pretend, momentarily, that such an outlandish idea has merit, and consider the question: Would the Nazis thereby be justified in using gas ovens and firing squads to get their revenge? The answer, as you likely have guessed by now, is: Absolutely not! Clearly, the ends (revenge) would not justify the means (killing 6 million peaceful people).

Besides, souls do not choose to be reborn in order to be punished, or to exact revenge.<sup>ii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> For more spirits' descriptions of the next realms see *The Realities of Heaven*.

<sup>ii</sup> See: *Defending Bridey's Honor: The Reality of Reincarnation*.