

FORCE OF INTELLECT AND FORCE OF CHARACTER

Albert Nock writes in his 1937 book, *Free Speech and Plain Language*, “The Remnant (of God’s people) are those who by force of intellect are able to apprehend the principles issuing in what we know as the humane life, and by force of character are able, at least measurably, to cleave to them. The masses are those who are unable to do either.”¹

Force of intellect and *force* of character blew away a lot of mental fog. Having just read Toynbee’s 1947 *Study of History*, the fog arose as to why during the fourth and final stage of a society there was such Disintegration due to abdication by the males. There is no question that this is a hallmark of the Disintegration of a society, as has been occurring at a high rate since 1946 in the United States. But *why* do men abdicate, in particular, those that are called men of God? What is there that causes them to lose their edge, their crispness, their alertness? Why would men of stature, men of responsibility, and men of rank capitulate to the ways of the world around them?

I began to answer my own questions by seeing what the word *force* means: from Webster’s 1828 Dictionary,²

1. strength, active power, vigor, might, exerted energy; to lift a weight, resist an assault.
2. momentum
3. that which causes an operation or moral effect, strength, energy, *the force of the mind, will, or understanding.*
4. violence
5. virtue
6. validity
7. destiny
8. internal *power*

Roget’s Thesaurus places *force of character* under Sentiment and Moral Powers, specifically affections in general.³ Some synonyms are:

1. flow of soul
2. fullness of the heart
3. passion
4. pervading spirit
5. ruling passion
6. mettle
7. back-bone

Toynbee's *Study of History* underscores the point that in all cultures and societies there are four stages that repeat themselves time and time again.⁴ These are:

1. Genesis
2. Growth
3. Breakdown
4. Disintegration

Genesis and Growth are the first two when a society is on the rise; the latter two occur when a society is on the decline. Breakdown occurs when a society (or any entity, family, etc.) fails to deal *correctly* with the current stream of adversity. Breakdown in varying degrees is present in and common to all four stages, but different in the third and fourth in the sense society fails to deal with them.

Breakdown further is characterized by this abdication commencing with the hierarchy of a society, variously called ruling class, aristocrats, official class, intelligentsia, elite, patricians, nobility, etc. This abdication, which begins with the ruling class, trickles down to the masses, which tend to mimic their leaders. When this happens, it ushers in the stage of Disintegration, where ruin and destruction result.

Having more exposure to the masses than the ruling classes, a picture began to form; that picture is one which I observe in February, 2005:

- There are men which have force, but little or no intellect.
- There are men which have intellect, but little or no force.
- There are men which have force, but little or no character.
- There are men which have character, but little or no force.

Some men work very hard, are the pillars of society, but know very little about their responsibilities as a father to their children, much less exercise what they do know. Their families are a mess as a result. Their intellect is secular, not spiritual. They can be well versed in their profession, but in a mental vacuum as far as their knowledge of God's plan in raising Godly seed. So "intellect" herein means intellect of rearing children according to God's precepts, not general intellect of a secular variety. Whether or not a father agrees with what God says in His Word as it regards the rearing of children is beside the point.

Some men are full of intellect and knowledge, but weak as to the implementation (*force* of character). There are men who were excellent Marines, well-versed in dealing with a physical enemy, but completely inept in dealing with a spiritual foe. Their families are a mess.

Some men are strong in their work, but weak in their character. Their families are a mess.

Some men have character but little implementation. Their families are a mess.

Some men have intellect **and** character, but no implementation of them. Their families are a mess.

Some men work hard and have character; but there is no implementation. Their families are a mess.

Some men work hard, have intellect and character, but there is no implementation. Their families are a mess.

Every generation has its icons, its newfound “models” that somehow insert themselves and their doctrine of fools into the social current. Each new generation, feeling a need to circumcise themselves from the doctrine of their parents, rushes headlong into the acceptance of these trendy ideas. In every generation these mental fads excite the young adults to the ruin of their families. What is so insidious is that the malformed fruit of the implementation of these ideas does not show up for 15-20 years. By this time the icon has either moved on, died of an overdose, or has most likely, altered his teaching. Their iconic “innocence” is updated and maintained and by this ever-changing of positions, so that it is really impossible to keep current. Therefore, the failures that result by following their leadership are seldom tied to what they once represented or espoused.

Dr. Spock sang to the young parents after World War II, teaching a new “freedom” for the kids, a life without discipline, and a kowtowing to their “feelings.” In the ensuing generations Spock’s bastard offspring essentially espoused the same foolishness that again was counter to what God said. These aberrations, which resulted in families being a mess, are on the same plane as the “base” math taught years ago that resulted in so many clueless students, which now as adults can neither add nor subtract. The “Time Out” of the 80s and 90s was only another faddish version of the same Spock idiocy which had resulted in the profligacy and self-indulgence of their fathers of Baby Boomer fame. The 90s children heard the same old song sung in another key.

It is this Doctrine of Fools that reappears time and time again that a man knows better than God. Culture after culture has fallen into this trap of life without discipline, life without pain of any sort. As a result, family after family has gone into destruction or worse. There is a truth that escapes the Icons, and that is the truth that children understand and are trained in righteousness by Scriptural discipline and Scriptural discipline alone. The fear of God is the beginning of *all* wisdom; that fear of God is inculcated into children at a young age through Scriptural discipline and Scriptural discipline alone. The fear of God begins with the fear of the father. That fear of father is awe, a respect, a reverence, and a heart to please him that transfers into a healthy Fear of God later in life. Thus Wisdom has been trained into the child and he/she is a tribute to God via His Word. Whether we like it or not, His Word is the only thing that God honors, not the current trend in rearing children.

The only way we as parents will have children which will not shame us or Him, is to eschew this claptrap of fools that would usurp this truth. If we do not, our misshapen children will remind us of our folly.

Scriptural intellect and knowledge are insufficient; character is insufficient. The absence of *force of character* is the abdication in doing what God said to do. Abdication breeds eunuchs, eunuchs breed even lesser of a male species; the females are cast off to even worse situations, and wind up as social (or sexual) debris. Fueled by anger and nihilism, anarchy and chaos follow in sequence. Once the male is devolved to a third generation of offspring, there no longer remains viable seed. Unless someone within the lineage steps in and reverses the trend, or there is Divine intervention, they will be wiped out. The trend **can** be reversed; any part of the two, Force of Intellect, Force of Character, can be attained.

As to why men begin to abdicate, two observations are salient; one, the hierarchy, as well as the masses, *begin to abdicate in the fullness of growth*. As Lord Rees-Mogg puts it, "Perfection is achieved only by institutions on the verge of collapse."⁵ Hence, prosperity breeds complacency, which in turn breeds abdication. Prosperity in a society nearly always commences with the upper class and trickles down; so it is with abdication. The masses (majority, middle class) experience prosperity very late in the overall development of a society, and with that prosperity, its temptations as well. It is no coincidence that Scripture uses prosperity and complacency interchangeably. Two, *prosperity turns into complacency as a matter of the heart*. In other words, there is nothing wrong with prosperity; but when the heart waxes proud, careless and/or self-exalting, it mutates into complacency with no more effort than the reversal of directions on a see-saw.

Enter the fool, and his carelessness. Enter the Icon with his message of fools, and the fruit of ruin. Enter the Destroyer with his lies to the arrogant President of the Company.

Finally, there are men who have force of Scriptural intellect and force of character; their families are healthy. These are in the minority, and face tremendous ostracism from governmental authorities, their peers in the workplace, and those in the pew. They become largely faceless, blending into the woodwork, as it were, seeking their like-minded counterparts with whom to build their families and communities.

Some survive.

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One of the Tribe of Issachar

¹ Albert Nock, Free Speech and Plain Language, 1937.

² Noah Webster, First Edition of an American Dictionary of the English Language (Foundation for American Christian Education: San Francisco, California, 2002).

³ Peter Roget; revised by Samuel Roget, Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases (Gosset & Dunlap: New York, 1933).

⁴ Arnold J. Toynbee, A Study of History (Oxford University Press: New York, 1947). 187-359.

⁵ Davidson, James Dale, and Lord William Rees-Mogg. Soverign Individual. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 1993.