

(W. P. L., #3)

If the present situation can in the least be made concrete, it seems to me the trend of history now is just what it has been in the past in great crises of nations. Always there has been the question of value and worth of personality as against all other phases of advancing civilization. We say Hitler and his forces represent the idea that the state or something apart from personality is the prime object of all social effort. The democratic idea is that personality and not government and nothing else but the development of personality should be the chief concern of the state. Whatever hinders the fullest development of personality must be curbed. Whatever develops personality and expands human capacity for intelligence, accomplishment and happiness must be encouraged. A state is abstract; personality is concrete. It is an absurdity that a state can be something apart and above the individual units that compose it. We can define the limits of a state. No one yet short of the Great Teacher of all history has ever defined the limits of personality.

No one can deny that in all wars the entanglements of business, politics and selfishness have sway of leadership. These are temporary entanglements. Later the race emerges with definite gains.

I think I have always lined up with the latter view. I cannot see my way very clearly in any direction, but I cannot believe the great calamities and devastation of this war have come upon the world to no plan or purpose. Always there has been plan and purpose. Always it has developed beneficence in the largest considerations. Regardless of all hindrances and devastating eras, the race has marched steadily from barbarism to more light, to the broader life and to greater understanding.

On the more practical side, perhaps, I am like yourself, I certainly cannot agree with what seems to be the fundamental purposes of the present administration, which have seemed to take the line of least resistance, yet we can be wrong. The confusion in all this is that many people are doubting their own doubts. The belief grows upon me that at the end of this world war some sort of new order will pre-