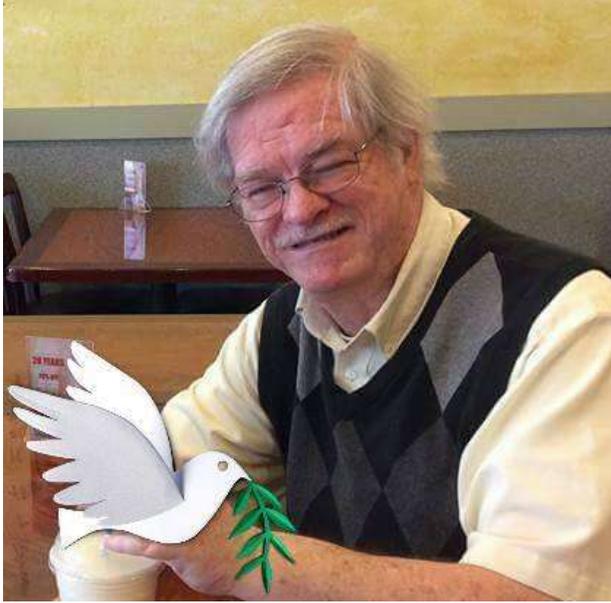


A Story of Human Nature which Naturally Feels Compassion or Humaneness

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Confucius told a story as an explanation of that aspect of human nature which naturally feels compassion or 'humaneness'.

He says that everyone who hears the cries of a child who had fallen into a well, would surely rush to the child's aid. It is honorable, it is natural, and it is universal.

However, bad education from society, instead of enlightened instruction from wise teachers, may encourage the aspects of selfishness, also part of our nature.

For Jesus, in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, examples of those badly educated were a priest and a Levite. These two were probably sure they had God on their side. A priest, who serves God publicly, and someone who was well-born, like our wealthy and powerful, in modern society.

These two, despite what they thought of their own righteousness, were ignorant of the essence of their own humanity, as well as the commandments of God!

The Samaritan was considered by most of mainstream Jewish society as a heretic, a low-life from a shithole section of Israel. Yet he becomes the hero, the one who internalized the greatest commandments!