

Dialectic of Authority

Authority is legitimate power. I shall speak first of power and secondly of legitimacy.

The roots of power lie in historical development and in cooperation. Man has to discover and develop language. He has to bring it up to the level of the technology of his place and time. He has to enrich it with the literature that will present to him an objectification of human nature in all its variety, its glories, its vicissitudes. Through such an ~~objectification~~ objectification he will begin to learn how to express his own inmost thoughts and feelings, how to evaluate them, how to communicate them successfully. There still ^{are} to be added developments in the sciences, in philosophy, in history, and in the immediately more practical realms of politics, economics, social and environmental studies. In brief, man's past is a cumulative process of development and, if we are to live off that development, then the past has to live on in us.

Besides the cooperation that extends down the ages, there is also the cooperation that is going on at any given time. The group can do so much more so much efficiently than the individual, the group of groups so surpasses the single group in efficiency and effectiveness, that the continued reapplication of this principle so that ever higher groups emerge is an ever greater source of power.

The carrier of power is the community. By a community I do not mean a number of people within a frontier. I mean people with a common field of experience, with a common or complementary way of understanding people and things, with common judgements and common aims. Without the common field of experience people get out of touch. Without a common way of understanding, they will misunderstand one another, grow suspicious, distrustful, hostile, violent. Without common judgements they will live in different worlds, and without common aims they will work at cross-purposes. Such, then, is community, and it is community that is the carrier of power for it is community that hands on the

accumulated discoveries and inventions of the past and that underpins the cooperation of the present.