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11.8.44

That all men should spend part of their lives as prisoners-of-war, I have learned so very much and please God profited by my experience. I have learned to appreciate all the little things of life, the things that I have always taken for granted - a good home, good parents, brothers, sisters, friends, and you darling; all these little luxuries that I have never regarded as luxuries before. I have learned self-restraint especially, by word - it is so easy to hurt people; I have learned not to sulks, to refrain from sarcasm. I have learned to mind my own business. I have being taught the spirit of true resignation to God's will; I have learned to suffer mentally and physically without showing it or reflecting it on others - it is grossly unfair to reflect these sufferings on others. I have learned humility - and yet I have been ruthless in my war against bullies. The weaklings always have my sympathy; they have no champion. I have learned to live in very contact with men whom I disliked intensely, all the rotten things about them have jarred badly but I have ringured it all. I could never have believed this change possible - my method in the past consisted in avoiding people whom I disliked because I considered it hypocrisy to even try to be nice to them. I am more than ever determined to get out of here alive but it will not be at anyone else's fortune.

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That freedom is a very wonderful goal. Freedom of thought, of word, of action. Freedom brings a happiness that one cannot appreciate until one has seen what lack of freedom can do to people. I know this country not a little - the people are slaves they have no freedom of any kind, they have no soul they belong to the government, they are an unhappy race. A few men rule the masses with a hand of iron. The ordinary people are good; the peasants are simple kindly folk, yet when they are taken in hand by the military clique they become vicious and cruel they have no enjoyment out of life. Slavery and oppression are hateful and yet these people accept with their open philosophy. They accept it because it is demanded as patriotism; because their religion has been to accept things that come from above. The freedom I experienced in England was saving my free speech, religious freedom; everything free as they say "An Englishman's home is his castle." No one ever interferes, no one is interested in what his neighbor is doing. Freedom is surely worth fighting for - the Poles thought so, the Czechs did too; the English freedom was threatened in 1939 and now they are still fighting to maintain it. May God they will grant more freedom to others that freedom which they so jealously guard with their lives. Oh! to stretch out my arms to the heavens and look into unbounded space from an Iron hillside and breathe that one word "Freedom!"

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About that divine passion called Love. Many people do not believe that love exists at all. They think that it is an exaggerated liking plus a lot of imagination. Love must exist. True love is not more sex, not more beauty, love; not just companionship; beauty is always present whether beauty of form or beauty of mind and character. Companionship is necessary too because the object of love is marriage and procreation. Two people have to live together for the rest of their lives. The sexual side of love is essential because it is the fulfillment of love. It must be gentle and not savage; it must be loving and kind and understanding. There must be mutual when true love is present.

When two people love they will do anything for one another; no sacrifice is considered too much to make. Nobody is perfect and temperaments will ^{clash} at times but God gives us the grace to overlook these things in the sacrament of marriage. He gives us self-restraint and patience. The troubles of one partner are gladly shared by the other and so they are more easily borne than alone.

One does strange mad things when one is in love and yet one is barely conscious of anything unusual in one's conduct. People have said that love is a form of madness - maybe it is but it is a very sweet form of madness.

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True love could never be a success - Society would crumble and so would the state. The foundations of the Society and the state are the family and the home. When these cease to mean anything then the former will crumble. God in his wisdom and the Church by His holy guidance has laid down certain Commandments and precepts which keep marriage, love and the home sacred things - not just the thought of man to be treated lightly. Divorce too is the curse of modern society - men tear asunder whom God has joined together in holy matrimony. Homes are broken up under the slightest pretext. What a horrible fate for the children of such wedlock! What is to become of them.

My idea of perfect happiness is two people - one pure Catholic man and woman - deeply and truly in love and living together in perfect harmony - and living up to their religion. There is no home on earth to compare with that home; there is no happiness like their happiness.

Love should not interfere with one's occupation in life. Love

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have little time for travelling and book-keeping. You are never dull and there still for long. You would rather have calamity than dullness any day; in fact calamity rather traces you. You face it out with philosophy and humor. Your comments on men and things are usually very pleasant and amusing. You "size people up" quickly. You would make a poor meteorologist.

You are physically active, fond of movement, of games and are a good dancer. You guarantee quite naturally to youth and the parents of young people, and will always remain young yourself. You laugh at years. You are slow to anger, but when angered you are like a hurricane; but you balance again quickly.

You like to receive love in return and succeed in doing so easily. You make cheery conditions all around you, and live every minute of life, and don't miss any of it. You are the best of good companions.

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What civilization and humanity has done for our womanhood. Woman has been raised close to a parity equal to that of man. The old idea of woman's inferiority is now a thing of the past. Do women nowadays really appreciate this fact? Many of them want to go farther. They want to replace man in the household. They want to be independent of him. They have had that awful abomination of the masculine type of woman who drinks and in business, smokes, drinks and in general copies man's manly habits. They have lost all that feminine charm and simplicity which makes them to man. Every man wants to make some particular woman the queen of his home, the mother of his children, a companion for life whom he can love and cherish. He wants his wife to behave as a woman and his love and as a mother. How sad it is to see a so-called modern mother who rarely ever sees her children but leaves them screaming and sobbing to a nurse. It is not fashionable for this mother to have many children or to look after them. It is undignified to be seen walking out with her child in a perambulator.

I know that my wife will love her home and her children; that she will never be ashamed of that home or those children. I will not expect her to spend her entire life in our home looking after me and our children. That is unreasonable. She will never be a household or a stage of fear. I want it. There is a happy medium between a wife who spends all her time at home and one who is never at home.

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If only women in Christian countries would fully appreciate this emancipation which Christ has bestowed upon them. They would love their homes better and be better wives if they did; nor would they want to imitate man in his daily life. Oh if they could only see the women cookies that I have seen in India, Malaya, and Japan. It is revolting to see them doing the work of a man. A few yards from where I sit writing there are hundreds of women working in huge piles of pig iron - very heavy work for a man even. And strapped to their backs are tiny infants being jostled around in an unbecoming way.

In this country people seem unhappy for love and yet their system seems to work alright. But they are an unhappy people. The women make ideal wives because they consider man to be a very superior being and so they just slave for him from morning till night. They will suffer any kind of indignity at the hands of their husbands. They expect their husbands to be unfaithful to them when they are parted - ^{a wife} ~~husband~~ will even supply the money so that her ^{husband} can be unfaithful while away from her; but she is the most faithful woman on earth! These people state that the secret of this country's great success in the field of battle is because the soldiers have no ties with home or wives, they are discouraged from coming home. May be they have got something there.

Our Englishman going off to the war

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leaves his comfortable home, a loving wife and children whom he adores. It is only human that he should want to return to those he loves; may be he will do anything to keep alive and forget the progress Crusade upon which he is engaged - to fight and die if necessary, for his country. He is more likely to take the easy way out, if he is ever thinking of home and his family. On the other hand he may realize that he is fighting for his country, for its honour, for his own honour, and for his own home. Surely this is the swiftest path to excellence. A Japanese soldier goes out to fight and die for his Emperor because the high one has ordered it. They are brought to console, death very wonderful, because after death they will be worshipped as gods!

May be an Irishman fighting for his country is the ideal to be aimed at. Where women are concerned. He loves his wife and his home; he has a passionate love for his country and for freedom. He will go out and fight to the death for his wife, his home, and his country, he will think death a hard thing, but he knows his duty and it is a sweet consolation. His wife loves him, but she will rejoice that he has done his duty to her and to his country. She ~~would~~ considers it a great honour to have a dead husband who has died for his country.

The Catholic ideal of womanhood is the only one which leads to an ordered social state. Woman has equal rights with man in the eyes of the Church. But in a home the

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husband is the head of the home. This does not mean that the husband is a tyrant and the wife is his slave. No! They share and share alike in everything and decide most things concerning their home and family on an equal and mutual footing. But every unit of the social order must have a head and the head is the husband the breadwinner.

A woman's place is in the home and until the world at large returns to this old-fashioned idea the sooner will there be more real happiness in the world.

A woman can have feminine charm and be a home lover; but she what an ornament she can become and a helplessly impractical wife. Still some men prefer the "doll" type. Well good luck to them. Woman is a creature to be admired and loved by the opposite sex but she must have a practical side or else her home will be chaotic.

Oh white women should pay a visit to the East - to see the lovely Indian husband preceding his wife along the road, the beauty, laden and he, carrying "nere a thing"; to see the slaves home are in Malaya and Japan. What a ride awakening it would be and what better wives they would make when they return home again and settle down.

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Reason is reasonable. God is reasonable. Good reasoning requires for its basis true first principles.

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