

ME and WE in Perpetuity

Maximal ME
Portends
Minimal WE.

Minimal WE
Invites
Aggressive ME.

Aggressive ME
Brings
Autocracy.

Autocracy
Produces
Privileged WE.

Privileged WE
Dominates
Minimal ME.

Equality
Requires
Endowed WE.

Endowed WE
Allows
Expanded ME.

Excessive
ME or WE
Contradicts
Reality.

ME and WE
In Parity
Promotes
Prosperity.

Comment

In modern complex society, it is not easy for humans to achieve and sustain balance between the ME and WE perspectives. The extreme ME orientation celebrates individual rights, privileges, and freedoms and ignores the fact that these freedoms only exist in the context of a significant WE commitment [rooted in social and ecological survival]. Political and economic conservatives tend to make this mistake. These political conservatives also fail to recognize their tendency to focus on the importance of family and country while discounting the need to support any of the many social layers in between. The extreme, human WE orientation idealizes the social, communal and ecological values and ignores the presence of the basic “instinct” in humans to compete, excel and be recognized and rewarded for their achievements [rooted in biological survival]. Political and economic progressives tend to make this mistake. These liberals also fail to recognize the conflict between their highly ME oriented, personal freedom lifestyle and their political support for governmental programs to improve social and community conditions.

Human societies are defined simultaneously by both the ME and WE perspectives. Humans are secured as a group dependent species by their WE value commitments. At the same time they are encouraged to adjust and explore new possibilities by the input of their ME value based capabilities. Human societies rely at the most fundamental level on this perspective dynamic, and they go wrong when these alternative orientations are not kept in balance. The poem above explores this challenge.