

### **TOLERANCE IN A CROWDED WORLD**

Most people, when asked what spiritual quality is needed to rebuild civilization, will reply: 'Love'. Men must love one another, they say; nations must do likewise, and then the series of cataclysms which is threatening to destroy us will be checked.

Respectfully but firmly, I disagree. Love is a great force in private life; but love in public affairs does not work. The idea that nations should love one another, or that a man in Portugal should love a man in Peru of **whom** he has never heard, is absurd, unreal, and dangerous. We can only love what we know personally. In public affairs, something much less dramatic and emotional is needed, namely, tolerance.

The world is very full of people – appallingly full; it has never been so full before, and **they** are tumbling over each other. Most of these people one does not know and some of them one does not like: does not like the colour of their skins, or the shape of their noses, or the way they blow them or do not blow them, or the way they talk, or their smell, or their clothes, or their fondness for jazz or their dislike of jazz, and so on. Well, what can one do? There are two solutions. One of them is the Nazi solution. If you do not like people, kill them, banish them, segregate them, and then strut up and down proclaiming that you are the salt of the earth. The other way is much less thrilling, but it is on the whole the way of the democracies, and I prefer it. If you do not like people, put up with them as well as you can. Don't try to love them; you cannot, you will only strain yourself. But try to tolerate them. On the basis of that tolerance, a civilized future may be built.

I do not regard tolerance as a great eternally established divine principle. It is just a makeshift, suitable for an overcrowded and overheated planet. **It** carries on when love gives out, and love generally gives out as soon as we move away from our home and stand among strangers. Tolerance is wanted in the bus; otherwise we think, 'why will people be so fat?' It is wanted at the telephone, or 'why are they so deaf?' Or, conversely, 'why do they mumble?' It is wanted in the street, in the office, at the factory, and it is wanted above all between classes, races and nations. It's dull. And yet it entails imagination for you have to be putting yourself in someone else's place, which is a desirable spiritual exercise. Tolerance is not the same as weakness. Putting up with people does not mean giving in to them.

<http://duermueller.tripod.com/forster.html>

**Note:** The British novelist E. M Forster (1879-1970) published the following text, which refers to the time after World War II, in 1941. Although half a century has passed since the text was written, the writer's ideas are still valid.

#### **I. COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)**

##### **BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT**

##### **A. Answer these questions. (3 pts)**

1. What spiritual quality, according to many people, is needed to rebuild civilization?

.....

2. Why does the author disagree with the idea that nations must 'love' each other?

.....  
.....  
3. What is the democratic solution to racial problems?  
.....  
.....

**B. Are these statements true or false? Justify. (3pts)**

1. People believe that love can increase the rate of dangers facing humanity.  
.....  
.....
2. Loving others depends on how similar they are to us.  
.....  
.....

**C. Complete these sentences from the text. (3 pts)**

1. If you do not like people, either you..... and this is the Nazi solution or.....which is the way of the democracies.
2. Love is a great force in private life. Yet, it ..... in public affairs.

**D. Find in the text words or expressions which mean the same as the following. (3 pts)**

1. exciting (paragraph 3): .....
2. tolerate (paragraph 3): .....
3. surrender (paragraph 4): .....
4. needs (paragraph 4): .....

**D- What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 pts)**

- 1- whom (paragraph 2): .....
- 2- they (paragraph 3): .....
- 3- It (paragraph 4): .....

**II. LANGUAGE (15 pts)**

**A- Fill in the blanks with the right word from the list. Make any changes if necessary. (3pts)**

**network – donations – campaigns – rallies – lobbying – livelihood – headquarters**

1. Amnesty International resorts to .....to force the government to release the people imprisoned for religious and political reasons.
2. The annual meeting of managers takes place at the company's .....in Rabat.
3. There have been many.....organized in the Arab World recently; their aim is to denounce the government officials in open spaces to large numbers of people..

**B- Put the words between brackets in the correct form (2pt).**

1. All what is published is subject to (censor).....
2. A tolerant society is one where different races and cultures (exist).....
3. The weather is not (suit).....for such a trip. We'd rather postpone it.
4. When people live in (harmony)....., we can expect hatred and intolerance.

**C- Put the verbs in brackets in the right tense: (3 pts)**

After my cousin, Omar, ..... (to study) nuclear Physics for six years, he got his diploma in 2006. He's been looking for a decent job but in vain. By the end of



