

# G.K. Chesterton Quotation Series

THE SOCIETY OF GILBERT KEITH CHESTERTON



It might reasonably  
be maintained that  
the true object of all  
human life is play.  
Earth is a task garden;  
heaven is a playground.

G.K. Chesterton

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Man is never  
genuinely at home  
except in goodness.

G.K. Chesterton

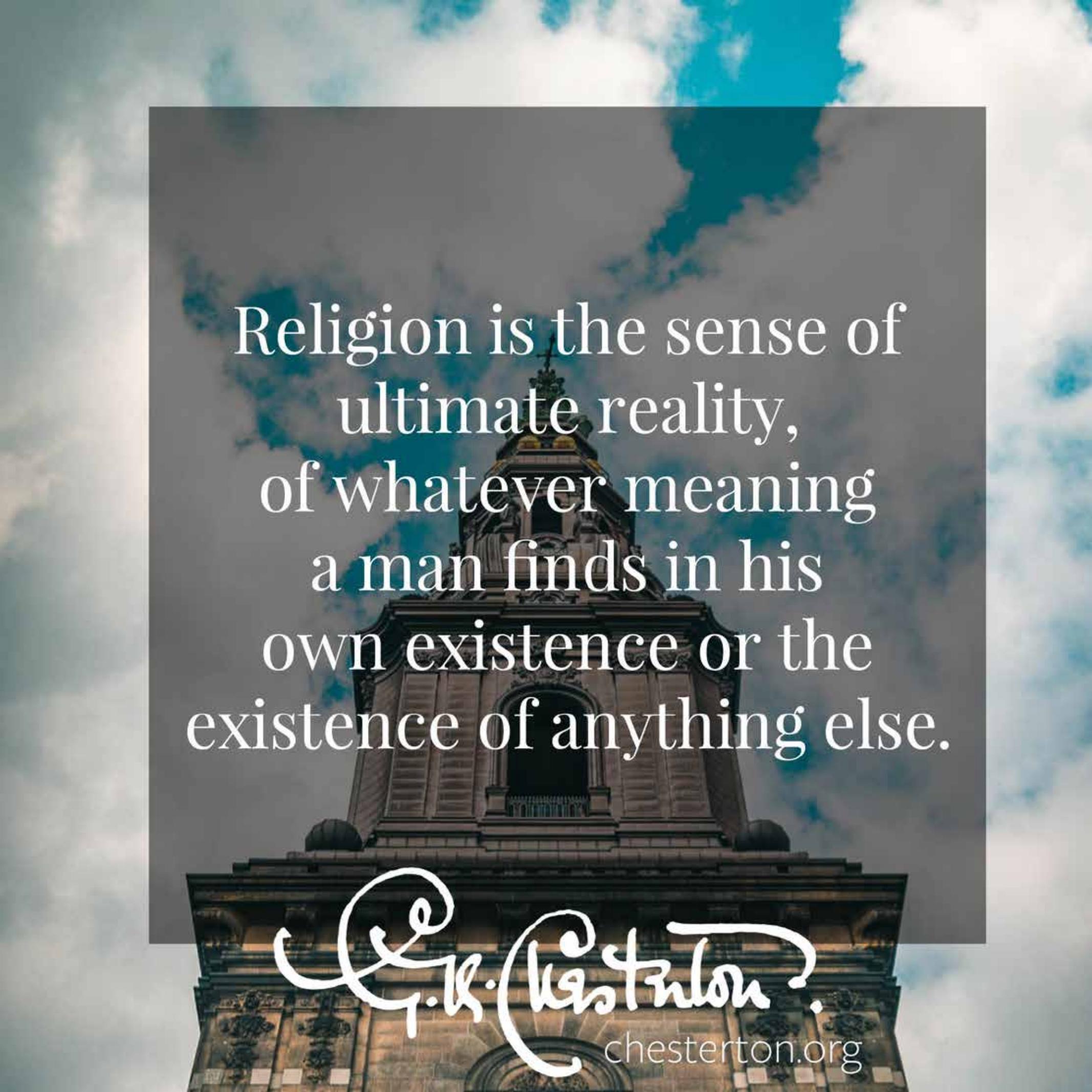
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Opponents of Christianity  
will believe anything  
except Christianity.

g.k. chesterton?

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Religion is the sense of ultimate reality, of whatever meaning a man finds in his own existence or the existence of anything else.

G.K. Chesterton

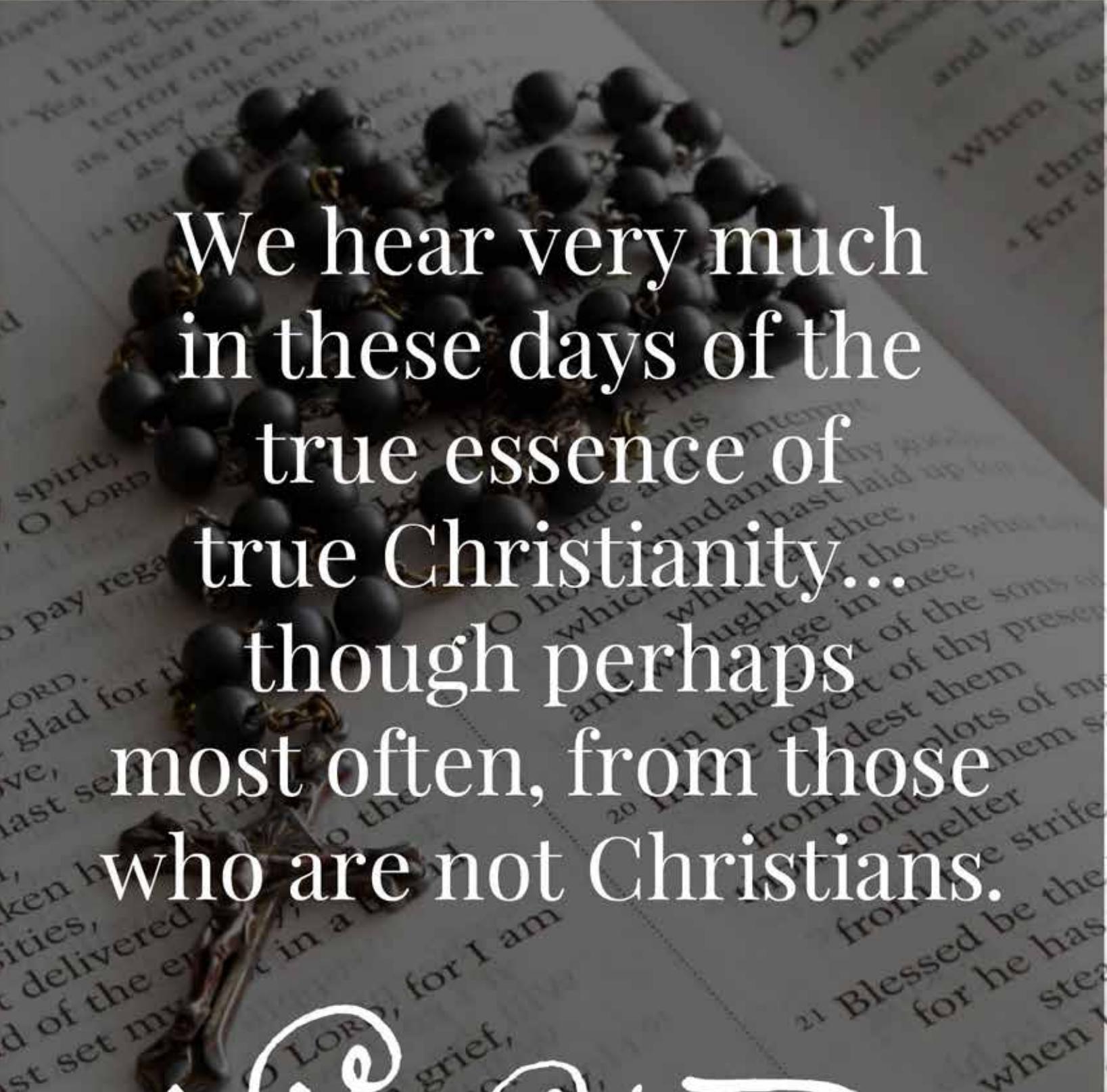
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A wide-angle photograph of a city skyline at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds, ranging from bright white to deep grey and black. The city lights are visible along the horizon, and the overall atmosphere is moody and atmospheric.

In the modern town,  
there are no neighbors,  
but only strangers  
next door.

G.K. Chesterton

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We hear very much  
in these days of the  
true essence of  
true Christianity...  
though perhaps  
most often, from those  
who are not Christians.

G.K. Chesterton

[chesterton.org](http://chesterton.org)

What is interesting  
about each generation of  
men is the things  
they never thought of.

G.K. Chesterton

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It is a bad sign for  
a nation when the worst  
things are the best.

G.K. Chesterton

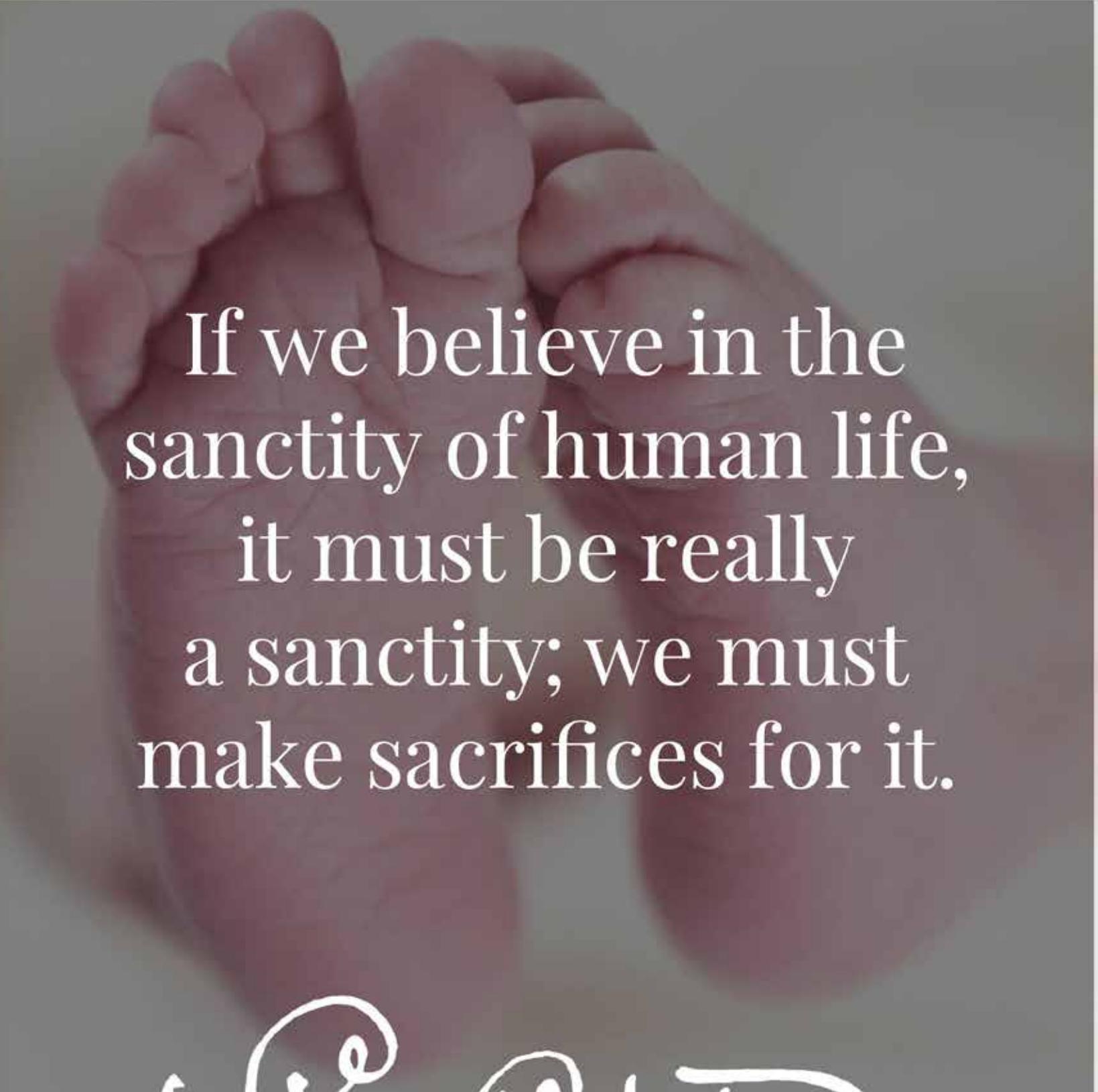
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If there were no God,  
there would be  
no atheists.

G.K. Chesterton

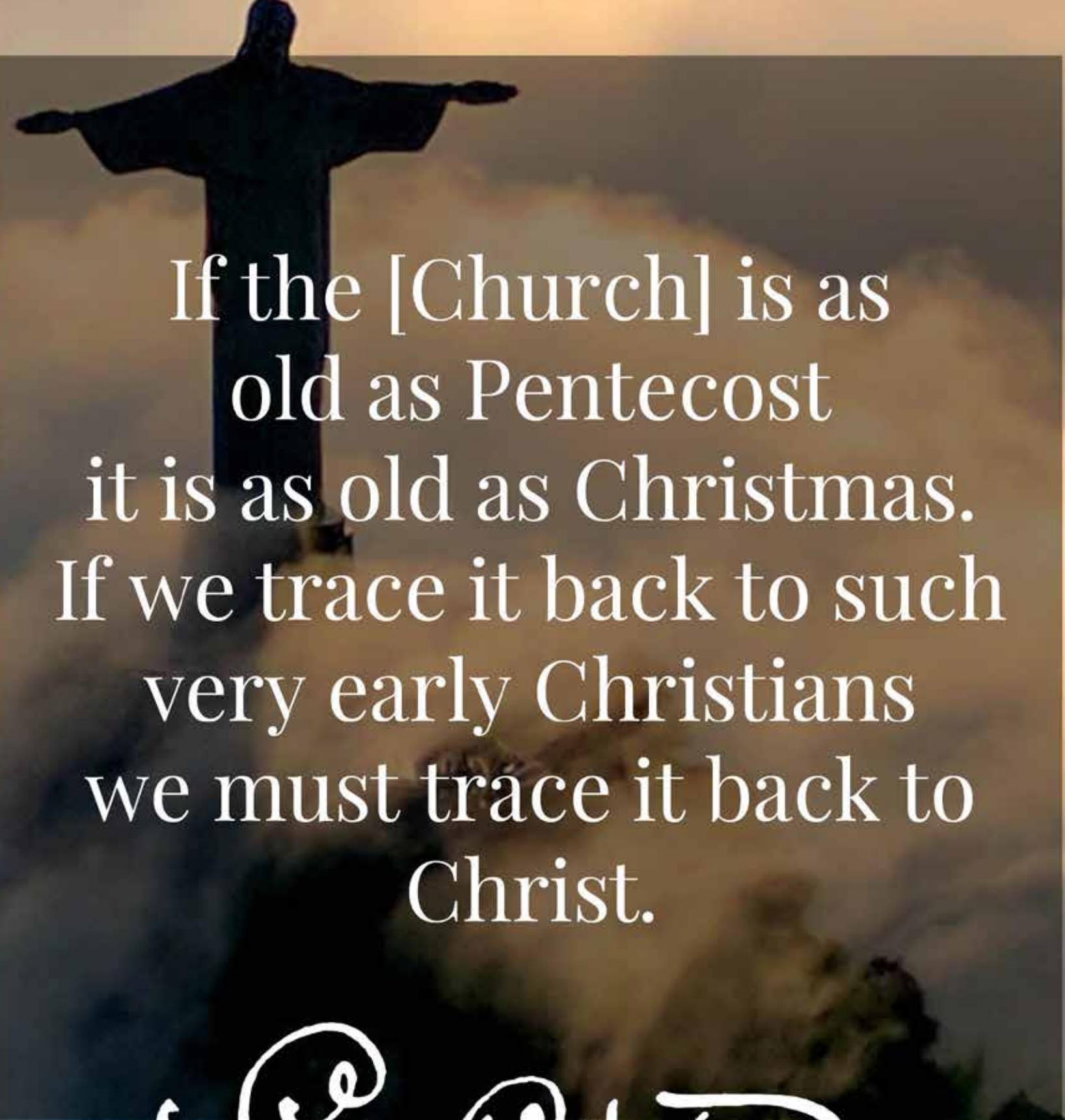
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If we believe in the  
sanctity of human life,  
it must be really  
a sanctity; we must  
make sacrifices for it.

G.K. Chesterton

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If the [Church] is as  
old as Pentecost  
it is as old as Christmas.  
If we trace it back to such  
very early Christians  
we must trace it back to  
Christ.

G.K. Chesterton

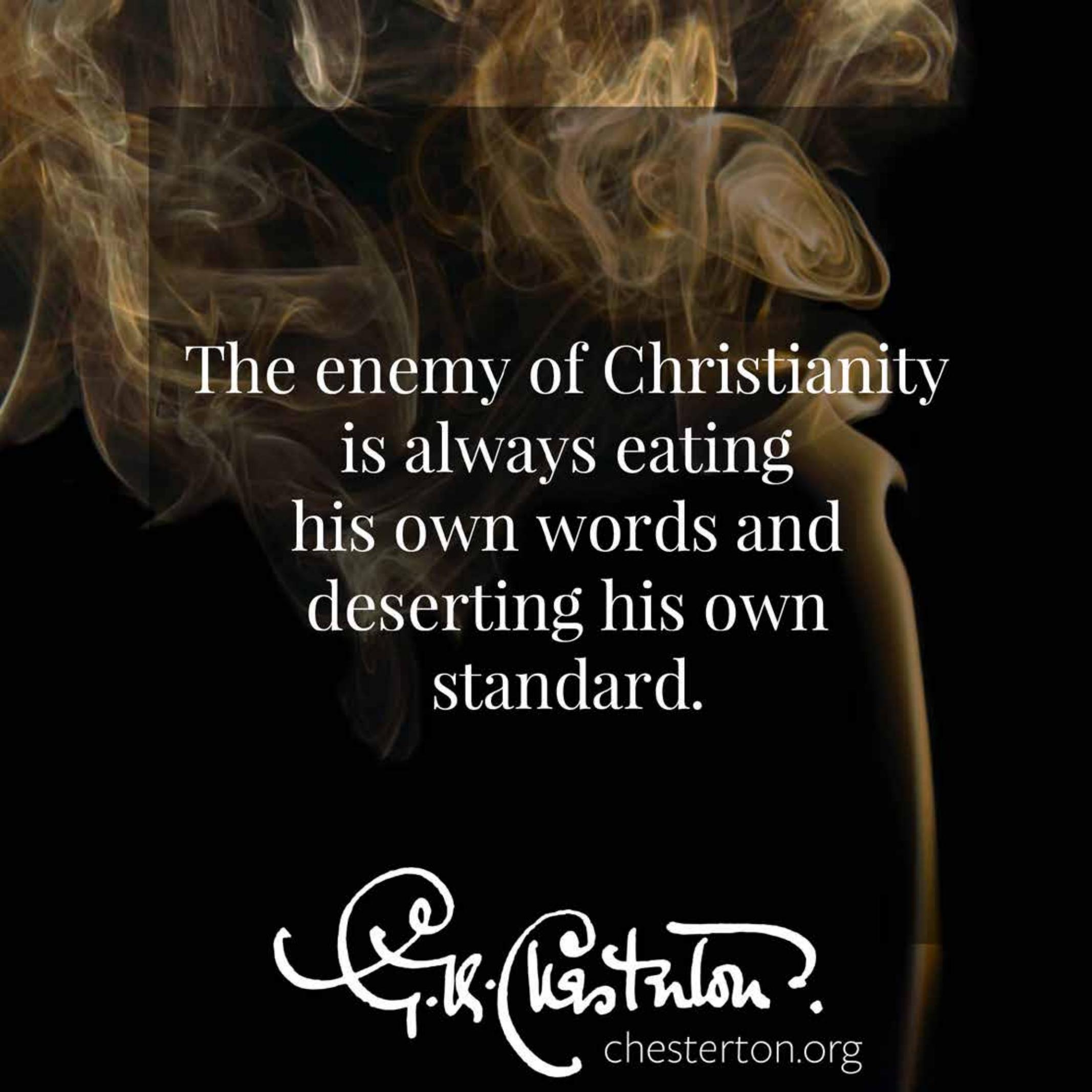
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It is always wiser  
to consider not so much  
why a thing is  
not enjoyable, as why we  
ourselves do not enjoy it.

G.K. Chesterton

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The enemy of Christianity  
is always eating  
his own words and  
deserting his own  
standard.

*G.K. Chesterton*

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I fancy there have been  
a considerable number  
of quoters  
who were not readers.

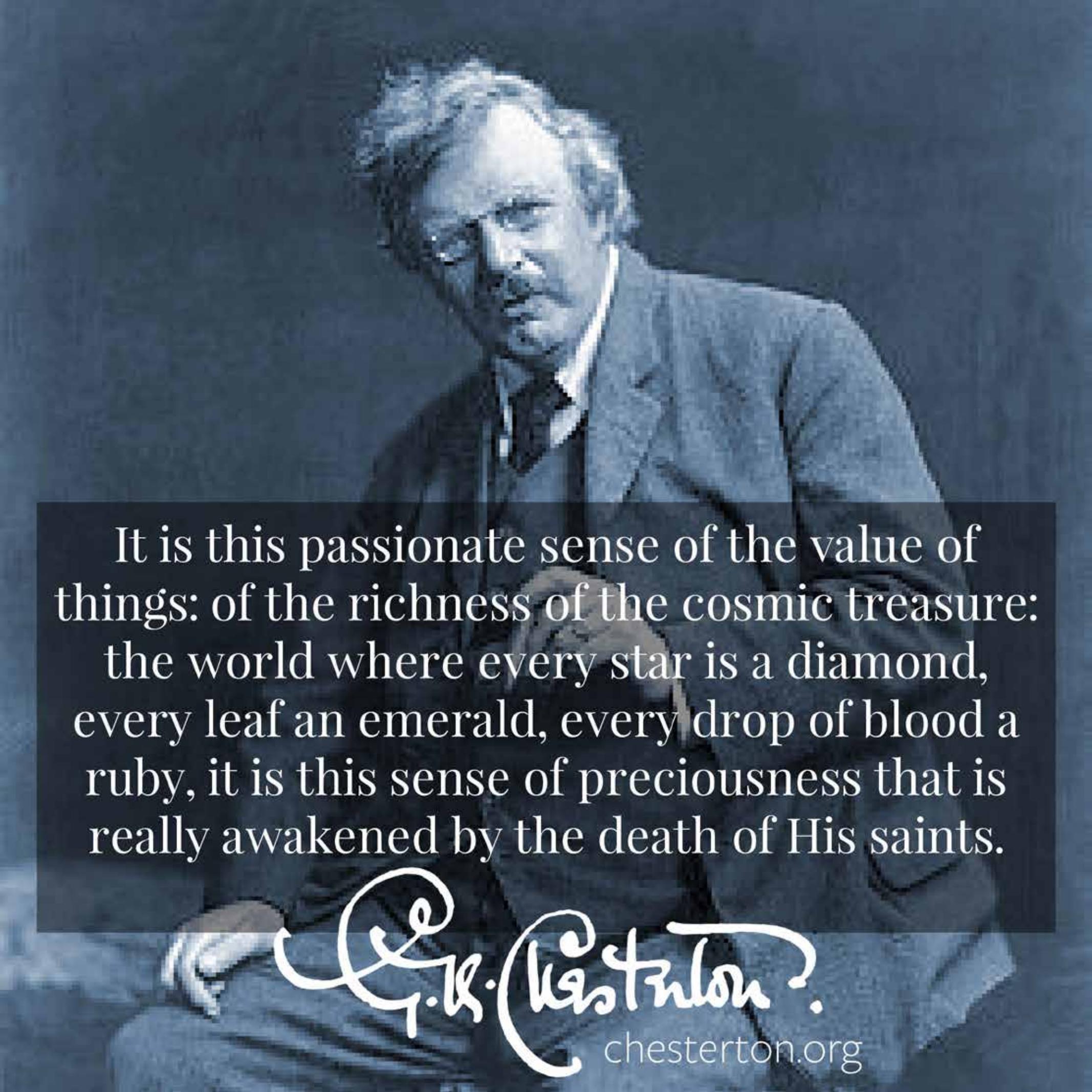


A photograph of a field of small, white, star-shaped flowers, likely baby's breath, filling the frame. A single, vibrant red poppy flower stands out prominently in the lower right foreground. The background is a soft-focus view of more flowers and foliage.

The only object  
of liberty is life.

G.K. Chesterton

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It is this passionate sense of the value of things: of the richness of the cosmic treasure: the world where every star is a diamond, every leaf an emerald, every drop of blood a ruby, it is this sense of preciousness that is really awakened by the death of His saints.

G.K. Chesterton

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A good many people...  
are not allowed to grow,  
because they are always  
pulling themselves up  
by the roots to see  
how they are growing.

G.K. Chesterton

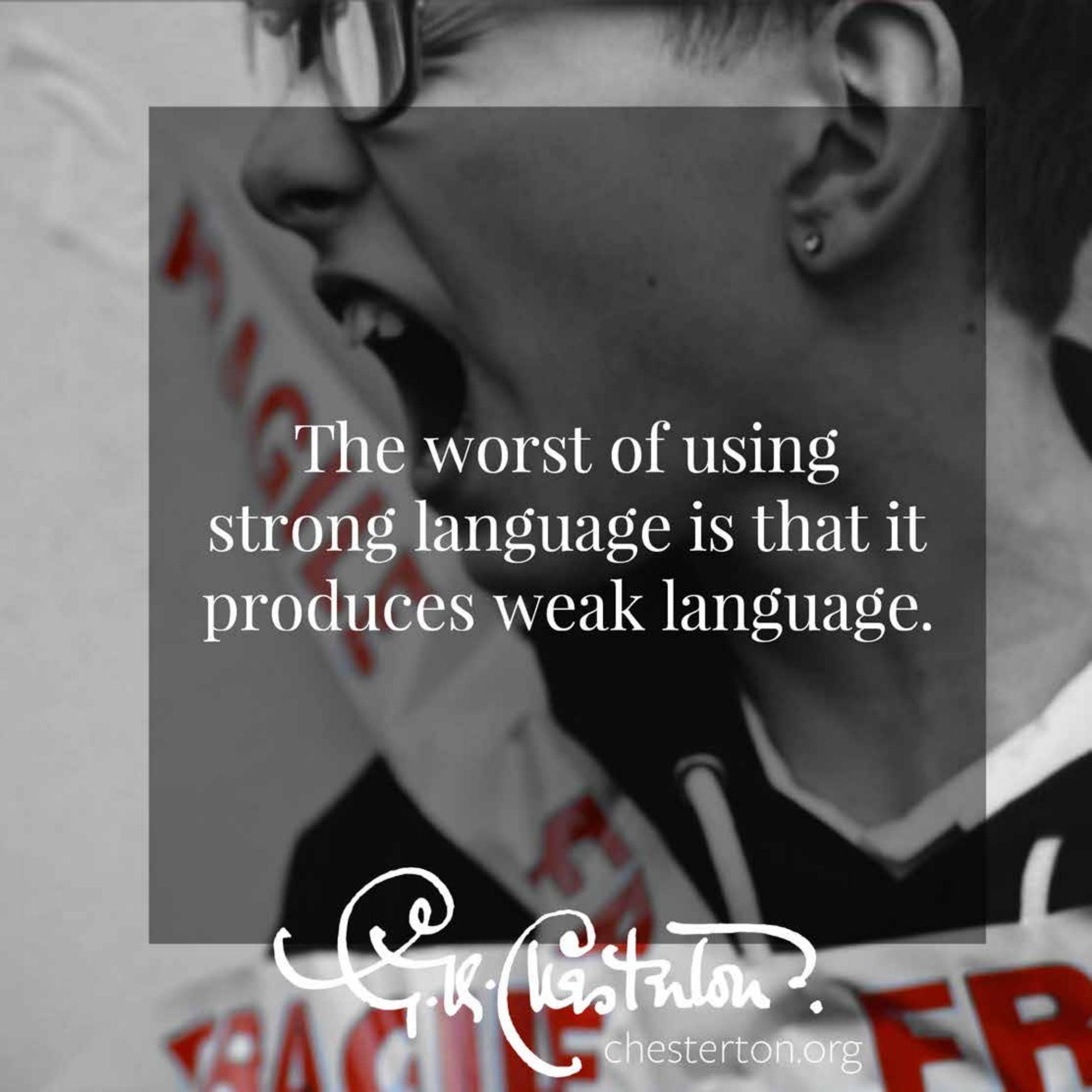
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A woman with dark hair tied back is carrying a child on her back. The child is wearing a yellow shirt and pink pants with a floral pattern. They are walking through a field of tall green grass and red poppies. The woman is looking towards the horizon. The background is a clear blue sky.

Most human experience  
goes to show that  
the more a family  
is really a family  
the better it is—that is,  
the more it really consists  
of father, mother,  
and children.

G.K. Chesterton

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The worst of using  
strong language is that it  
produces weak language.

g.k. chesterton

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Youth is much more capable of amusing itself than is now supposed, and in much less mortal need of being amused.

G.K. Chesterton

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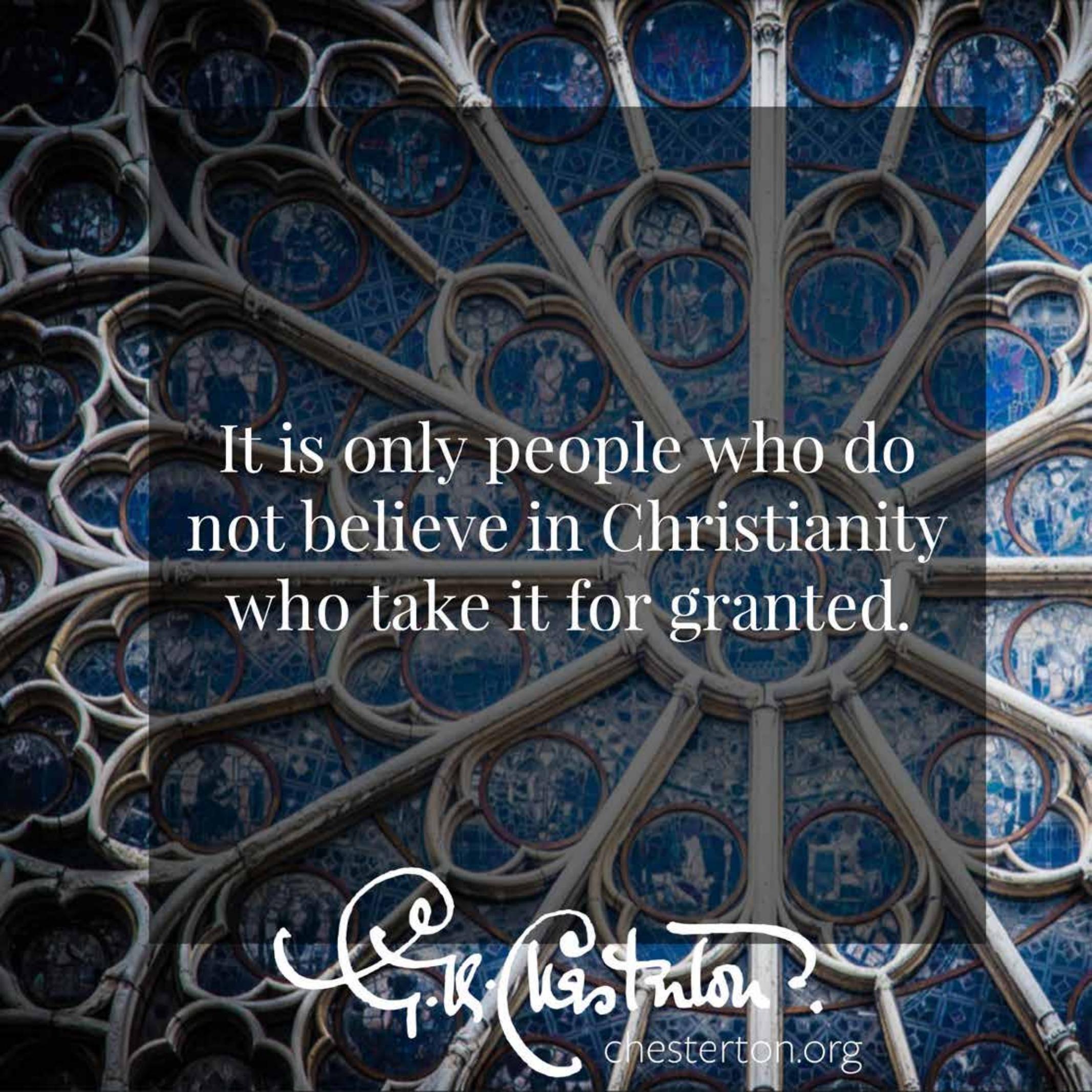
There is nothing more  
consciously dreary  
than the deliberate  
pursuit of pleasure.

G.K. Chesterton

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Now I think, as I have always thought, that the only salvation for our civilization is going back; not so much going back to former conditions as going back to first principles.

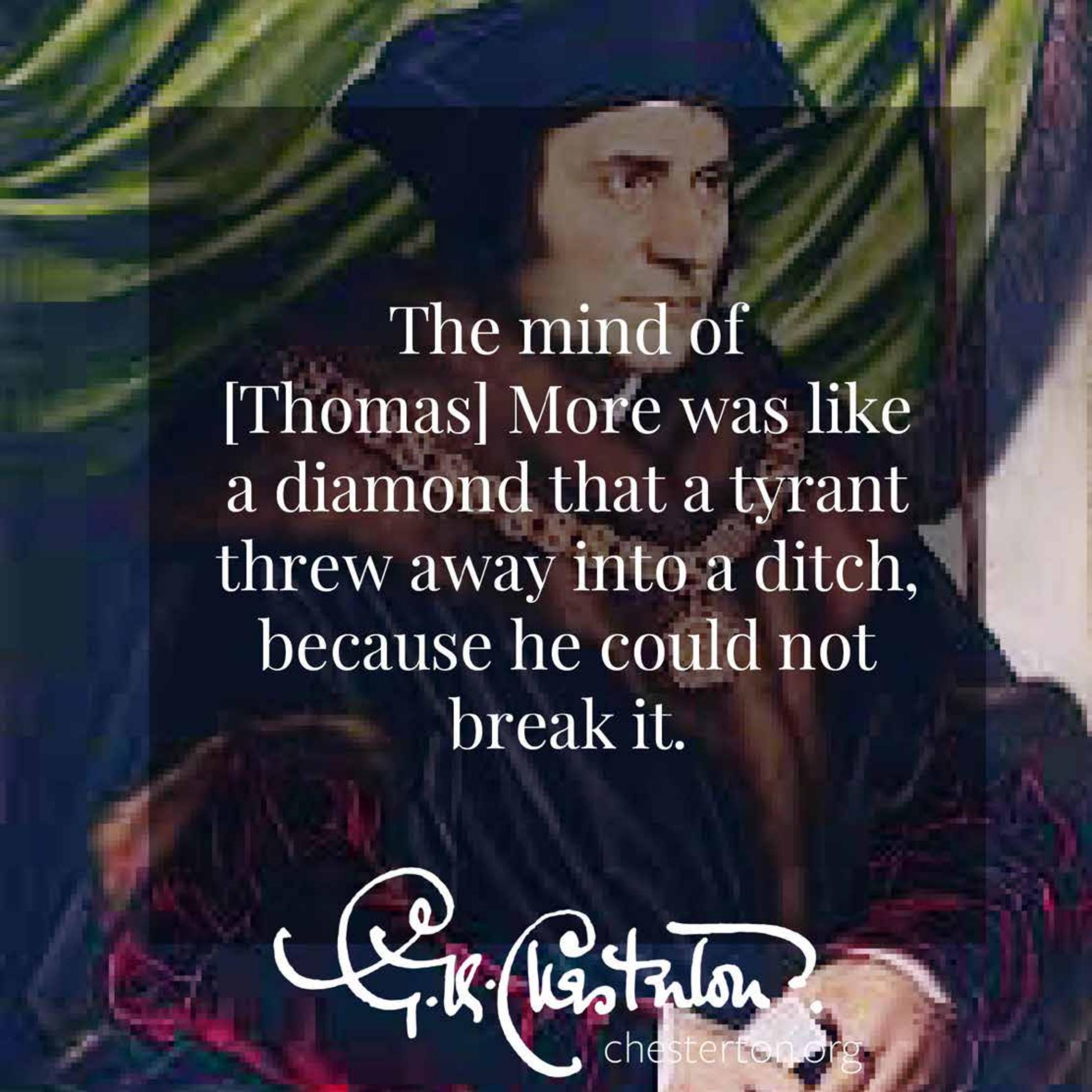




It is only people who do  
not believe in Christianity  
who take it for granted.

G.K. Chesterton

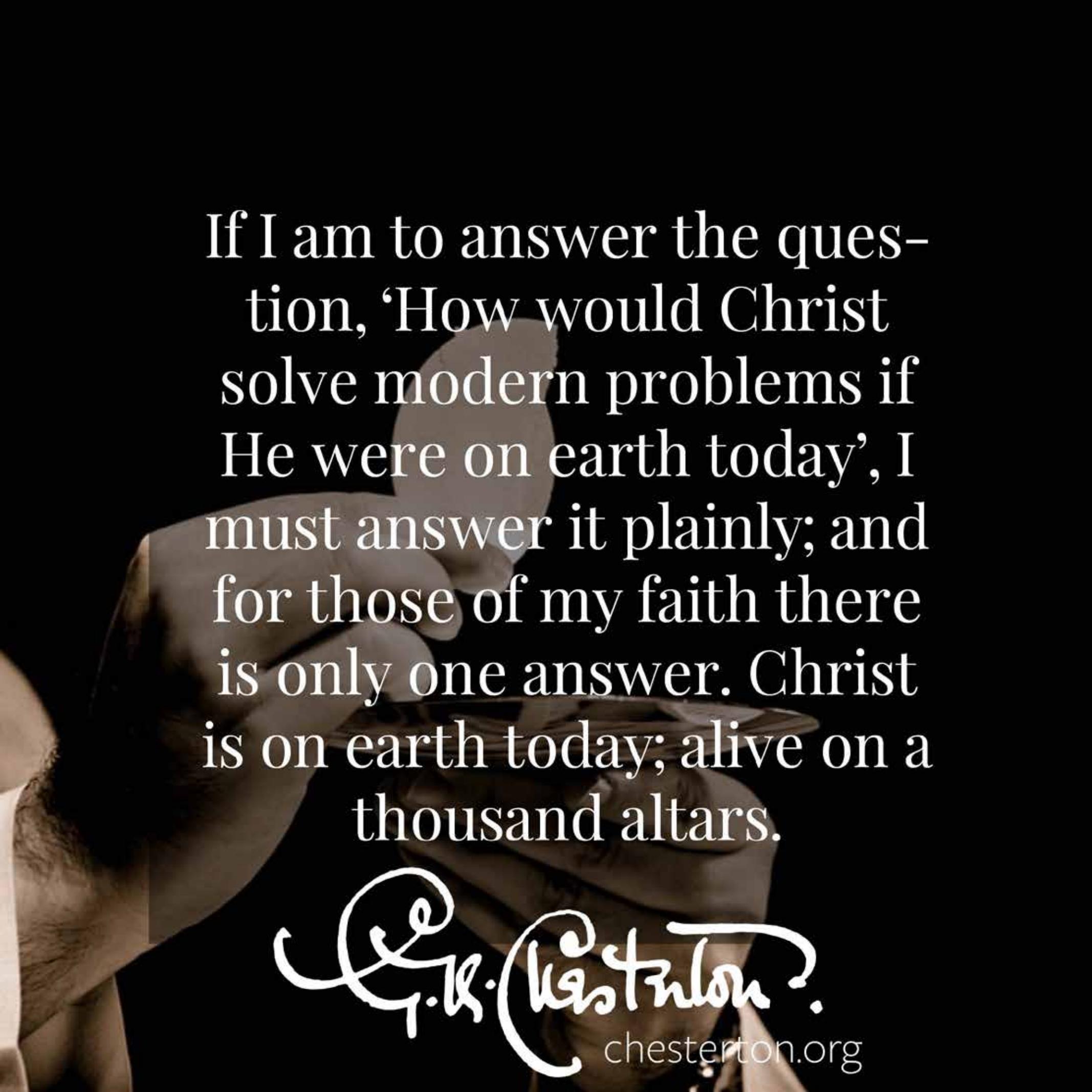
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The mind of  
[Thomas] More was like  
a diamond that a tyrant  
threw away into a ditch,  
because he could not  
break it.

G.K. Chesterton

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If I am to answer the question, 'How would Christ solve modern problems if He were on earth today', I must answer it plainly; and for those of my faith there is only one answer. Christ is on earth today; alive on a thousand altars.

G.K. Chesterton

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If we are not all trying to  
convince the world  
of the truth of our  
convictions, what in the  
world are we doing;  
or why in the world  
do we call them  
our convictions at all?

G.K. Chesterton

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Strength is  
the great weakness  
of politicians.

G.K. Chesterton

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A top-down photograph of a dark wooden desk. On the desk, from left to right, is a white notebook, a silver laptop with its screen open, a white mug filled with dark coffee, and a small white notepad. The lighting is warm and focused on the center of the desk.

Modern men are  
less anxious to be men  
than to be modern.

G.K. Chesterton

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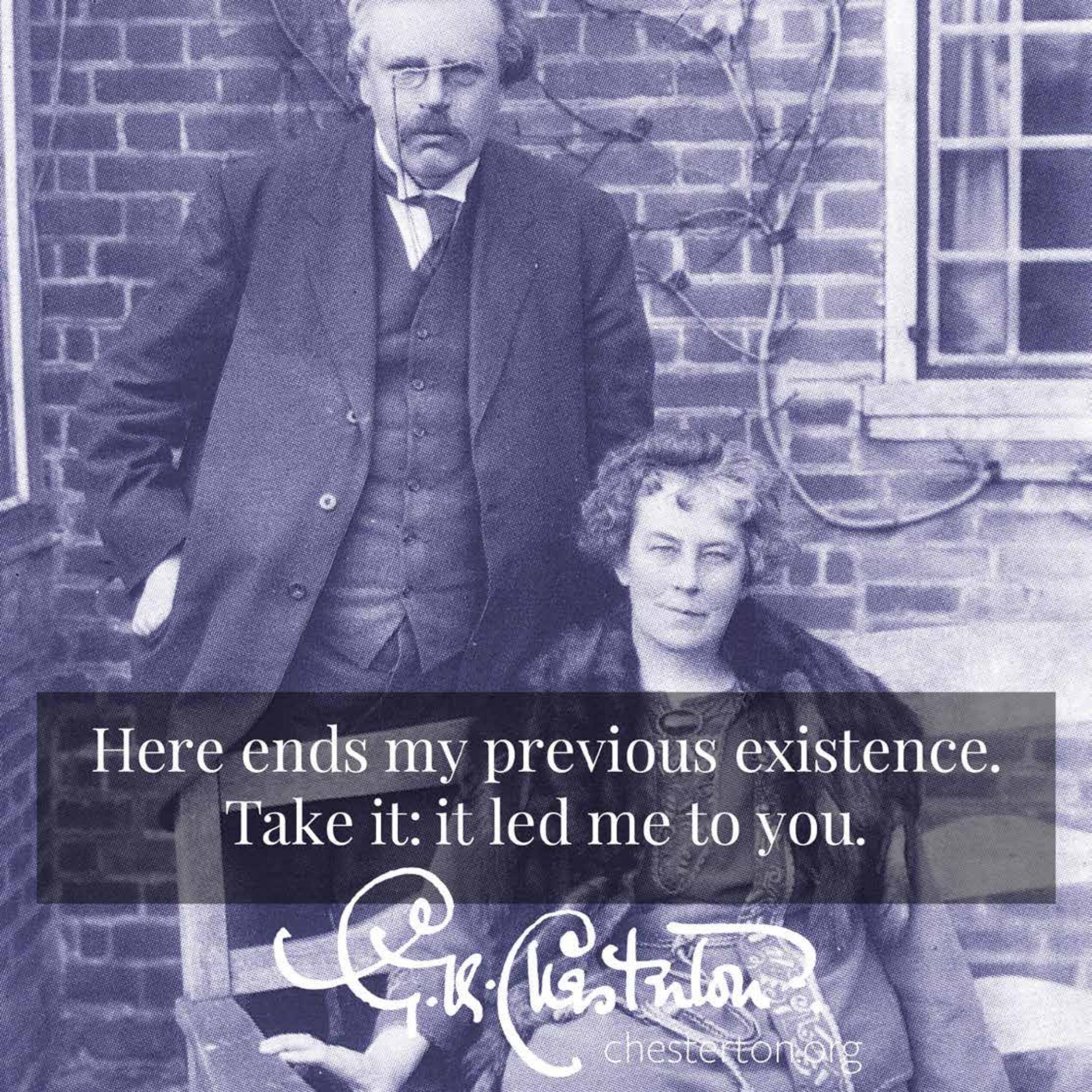




Before men analyze  
the uses of the  
unconscious mind,  
it may, perhaps, be well  
for them to discover the  
use of the mind.

*G.K. Chesterton*

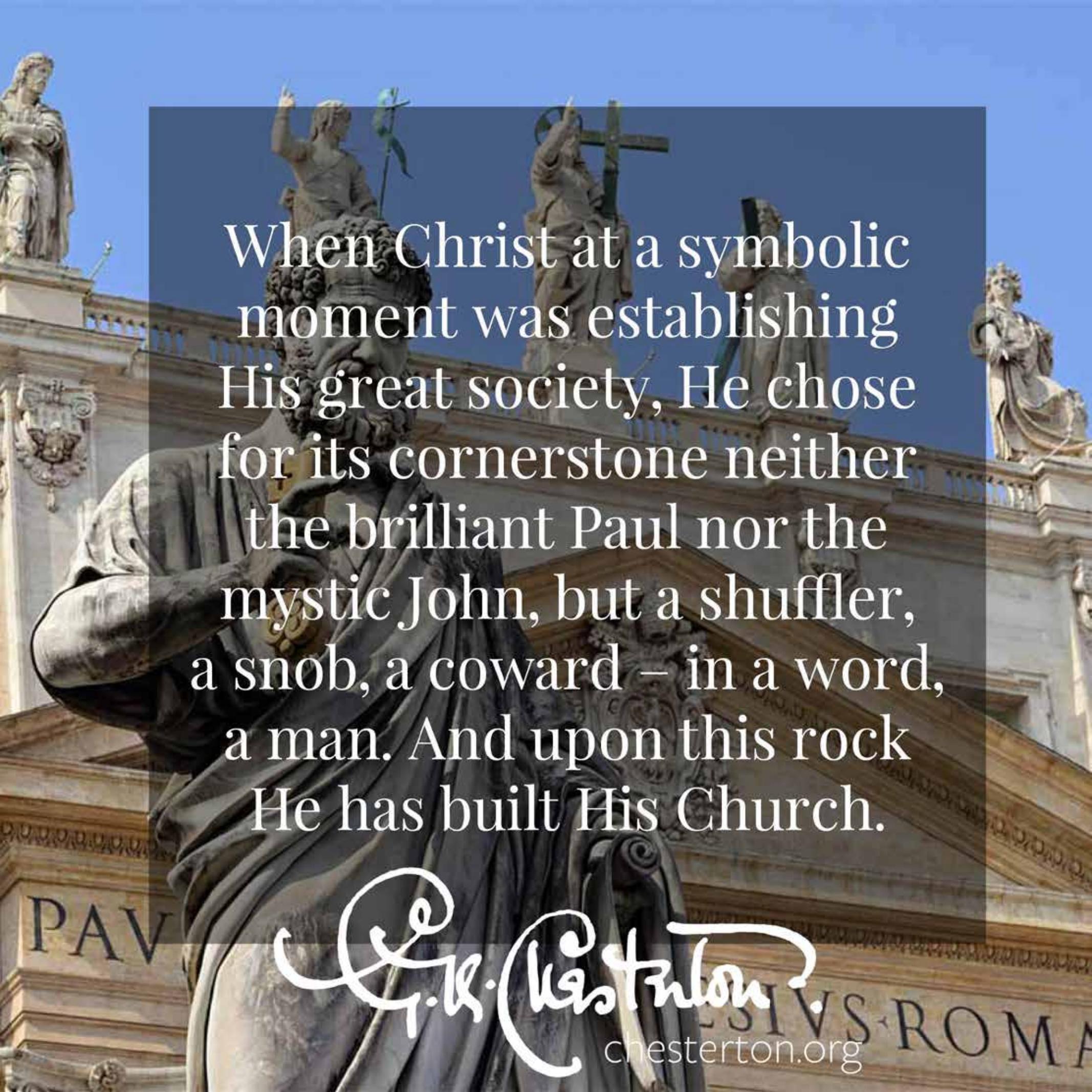
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Here ends my previous existence.  
Take it: it led me to you.

G.K. Chesterton

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When Christ at a symbolic  
moment was establishing  
His great society, He chose  
for its cornerstone neither  
the brilliant Paul nor the  
mystic John, but a shuffler,  
a snob, a coward – in a word,  
a man. And upon this rock  
He has built His Church.

G.K. Chesterton

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Conversion is the  
one sort of conquest  
in which the conquered  
must rejoice.

G.K. Chesterton

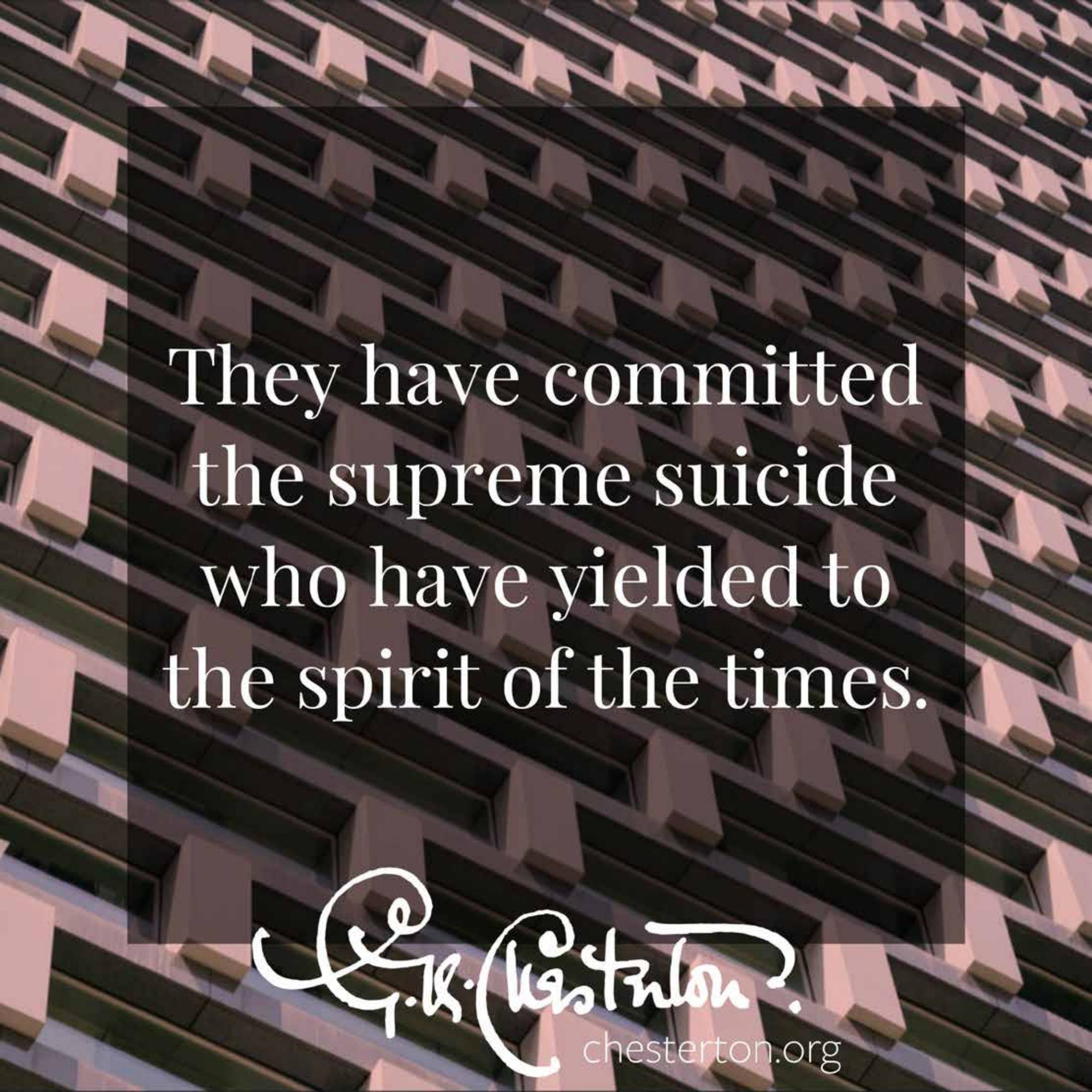
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So many Socialists  
simply try to collect  
all the opinions that  
have ever been called  
humanitarian or  
advanced, and try to  
hold them all at once.

G.K. Chesterton

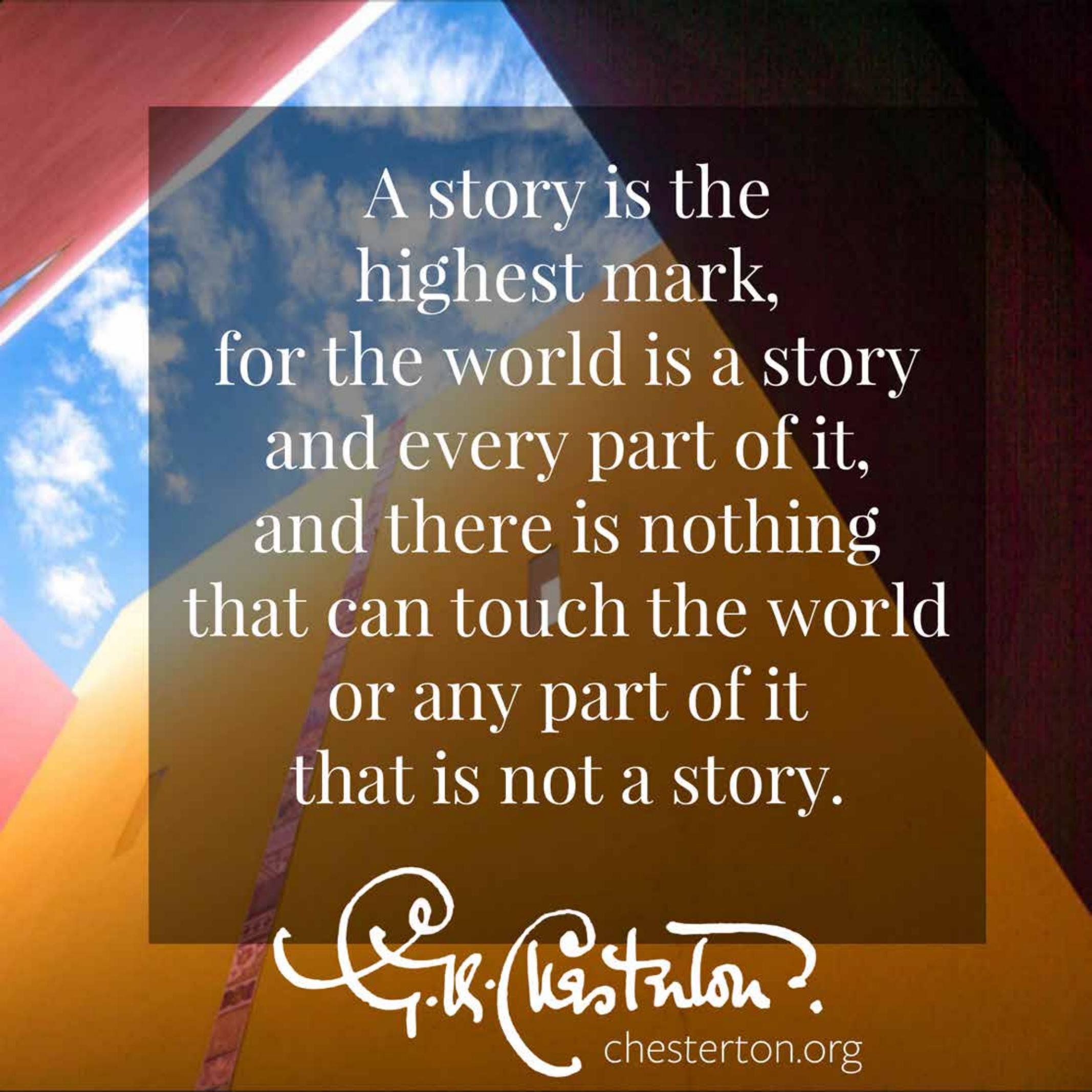
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They have committed  
the supreme suicide  
who have yielded to  
the spirit of the times.

G.K. Chesterton

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A story is the highest mark,  
for the world is a story  
and every part of it,  
and there is nothing  
that can touch the world  
or any part of it  
that is not a story.

G.K. Chesterton

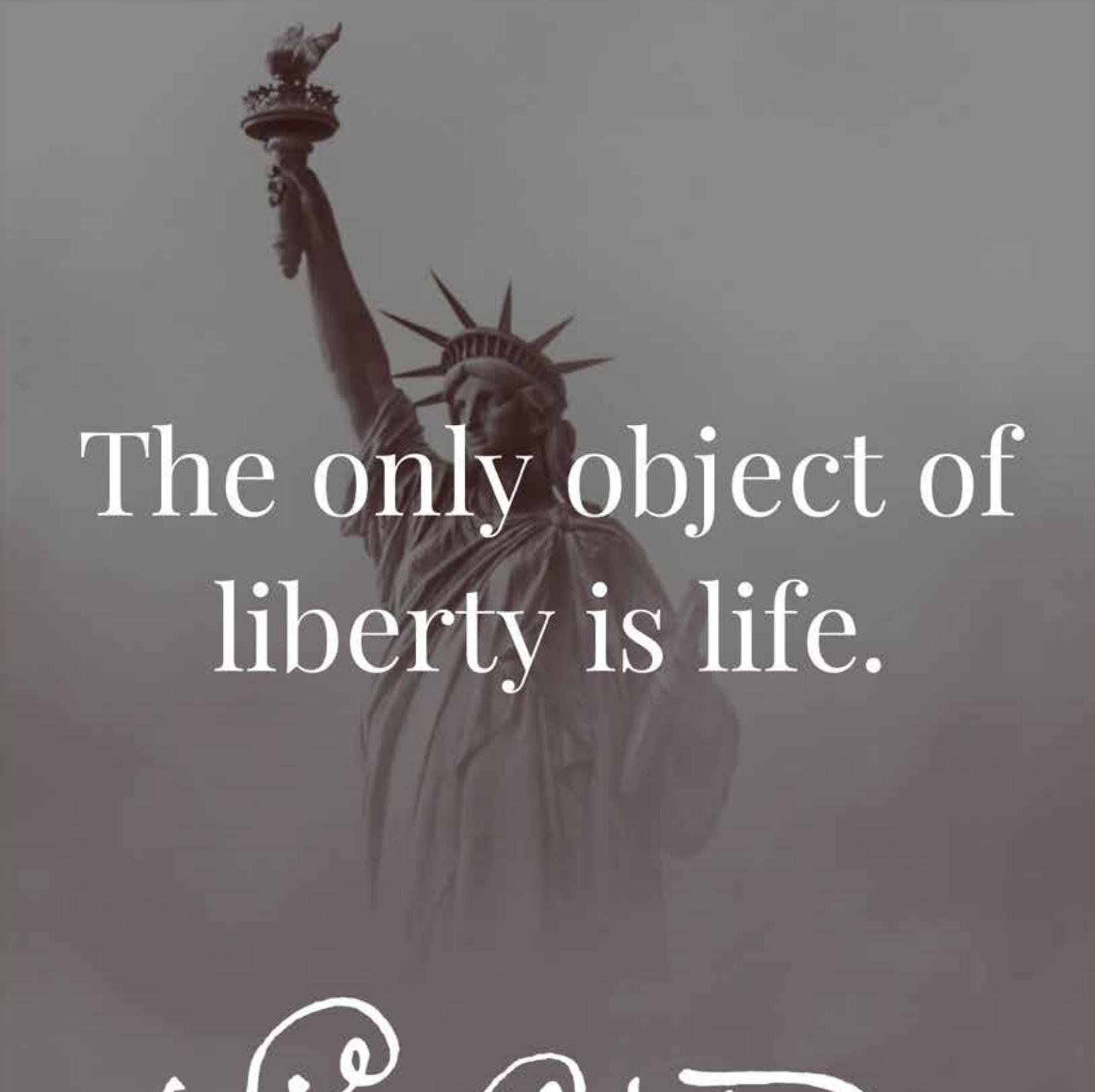
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A free man ought  
neither to  
raise the people  
nor crush the people;  
he ought to  
be the people.

G.K. Chesterton

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A dark, high-contrast photograph of the Statue of Liberty, showing her head, neck, and the upper part of her right arm holding the torch. The background is a solid dark grey.

The only object of  
liberty is life.

G.K. Chesterton

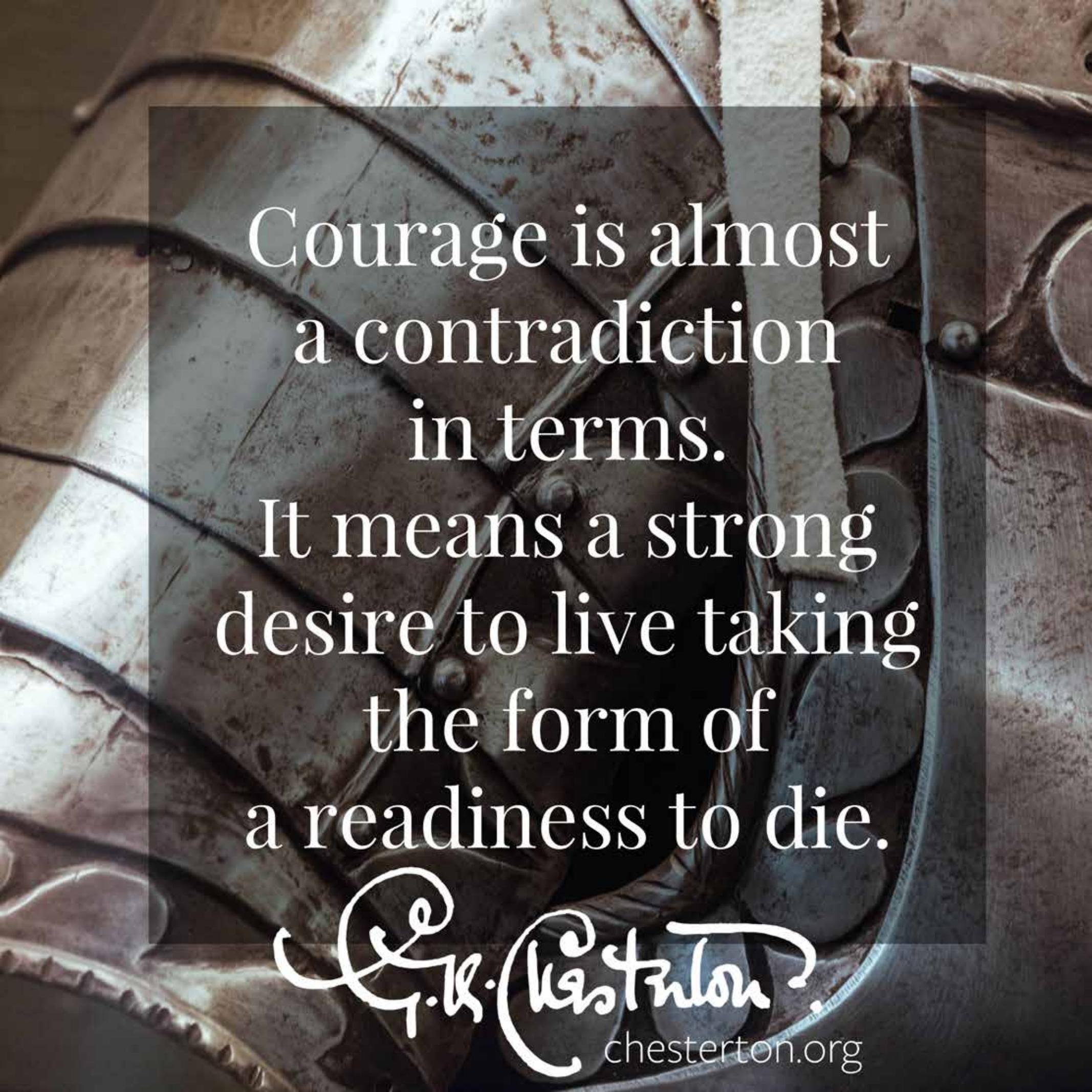
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A person is sitting on a large, dark rock, looking out over a vast landscape. In the foreground, there's a body of water with small boats. Beyond it are rolling hills and mountains under a sky filled with large, billowing clouds.

An inconvenience  
is only an adventure  
wrongly considered;  
an adventure is  
an inconvenience  
rightly considered.

G.K. Chesterton

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Courage is almost  
a contradiction  
in terms.

It means a strong  
desire to live taking  
the form of  
a readiness to die.

G.K. Chesterton

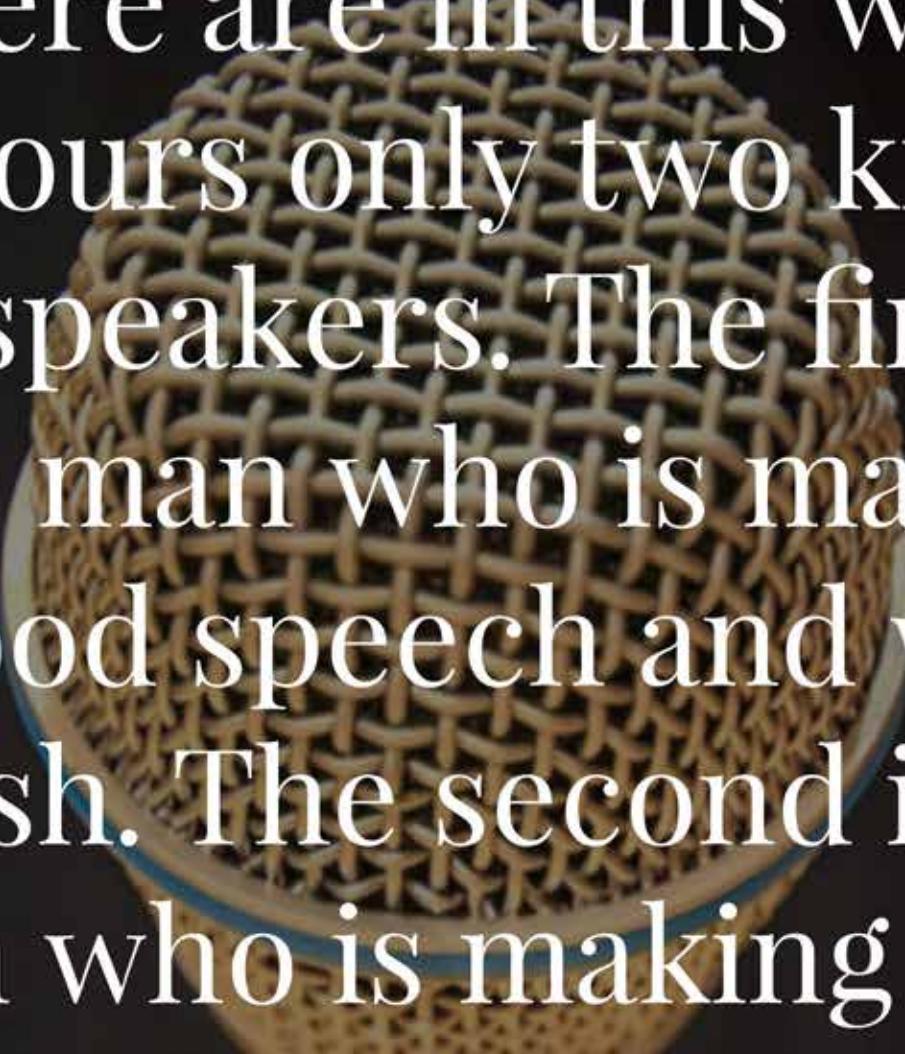
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Any truth that  
a man fears  
will be good  
for his soul.

G.K. Chesterton

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There are in this world of ours only two kinds of speakers. The first is the man who is making a good speech and won't finish. The second is the man who is making a bad speech and can't finish. The latter is the longer.



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Democracy  
now means  
being governed by  
an unpopular minority.

G.K. Chesterton

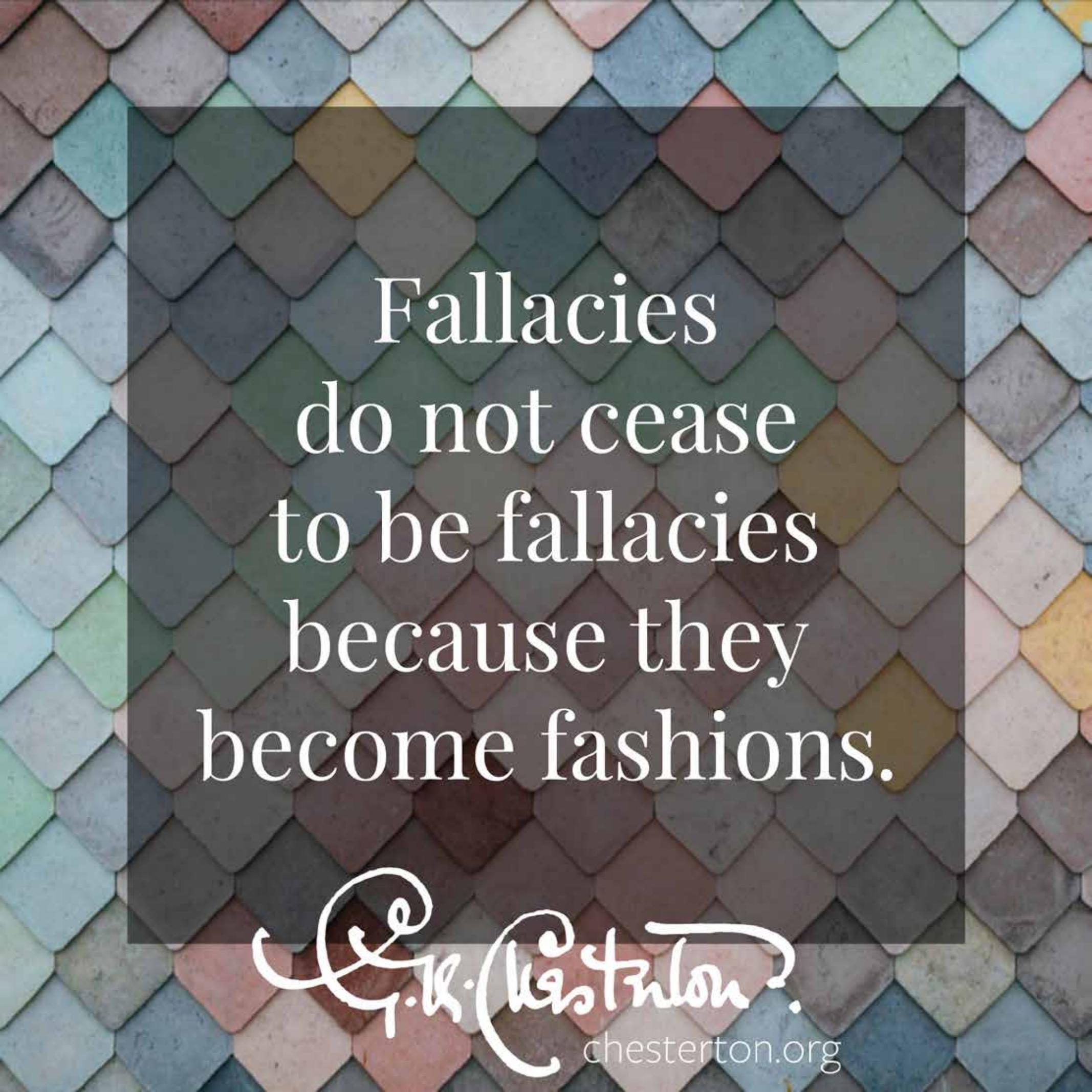
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We ourselves doubt  
very much  
whether the Devil  
is as white  
as he is painted.

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Fallacies  
do not cease  
to be fallacies  
because they  
become fashions.

G.K. Chesterton

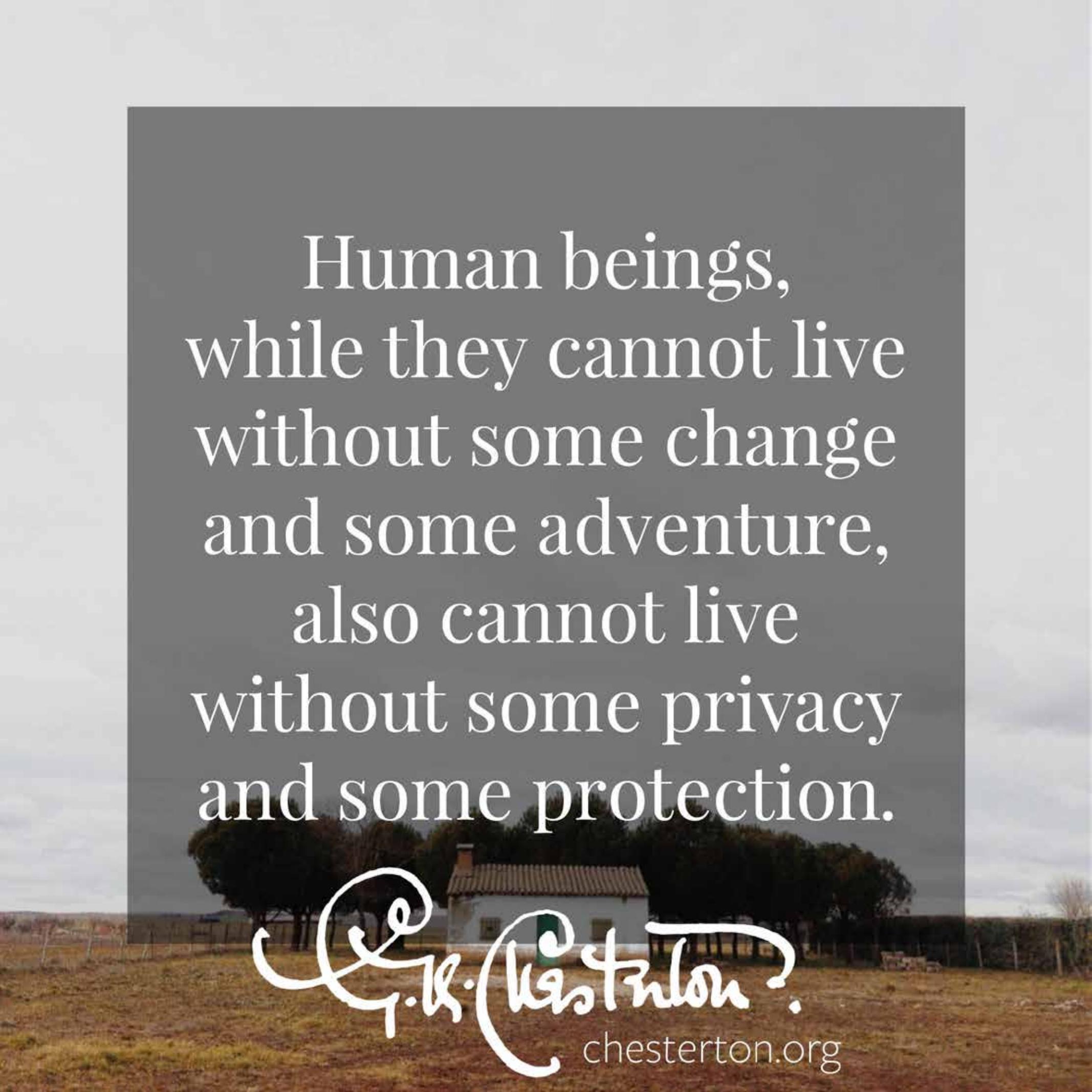
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The most bigoted  
people in the world  
are the people who  
believe nothing at all,  
who have no  
convictions  
whatsoever.

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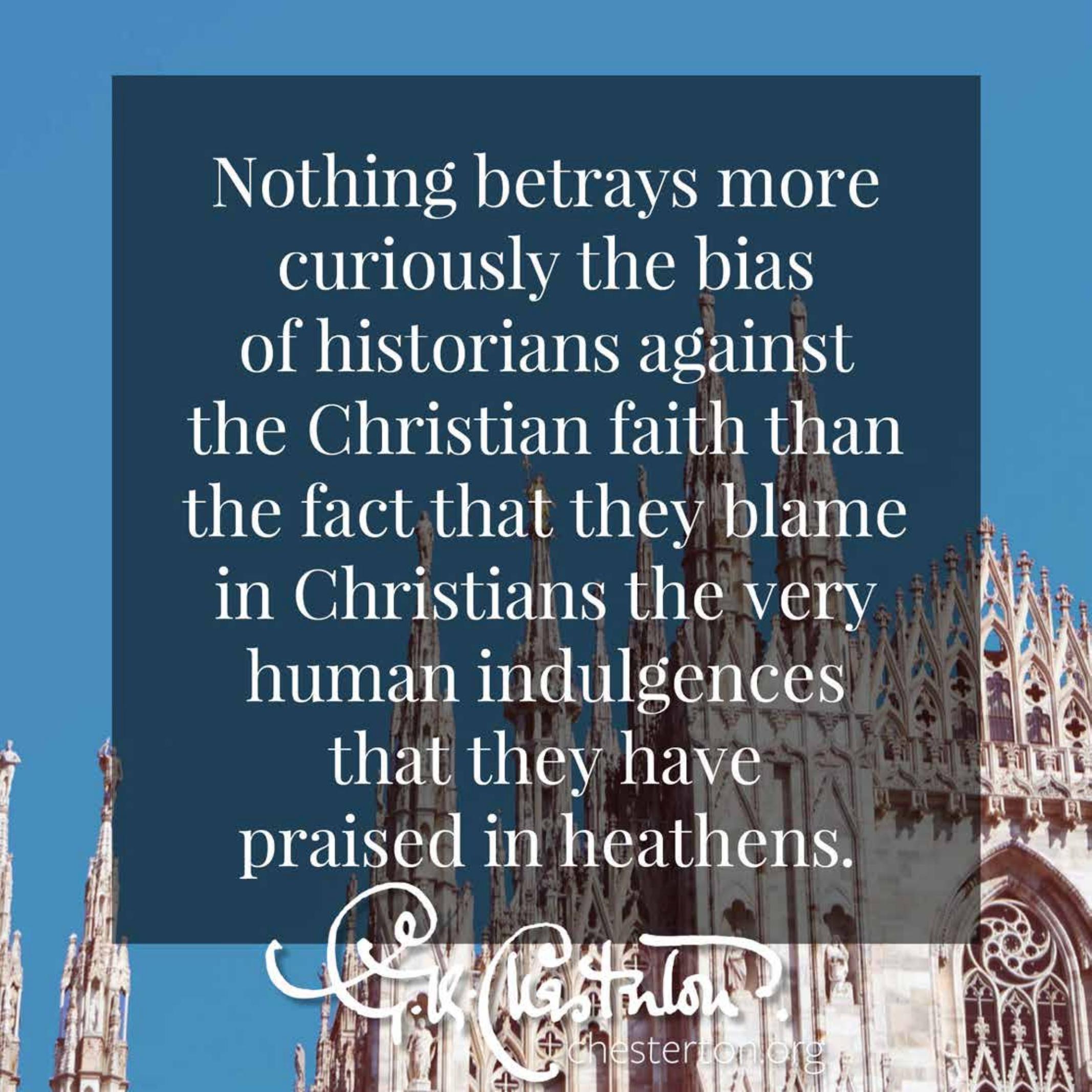
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Human beings,  
while they cannot live  
without some change  
and some adventure,  
also cannot live  
without some privacy  
and some protection.



G.K. Chesterton

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Nothing betrays more curiously the bias of historians against the Christian faith than the fact that they blame in Christians the very human indulgences that they have praised in heathens.

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He is a  
[sane] man  
who can have  
tragedy in his heart  
and comedy  
in his head.

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The mass of the immoralists  
never believed in immorality  
or in anything else.

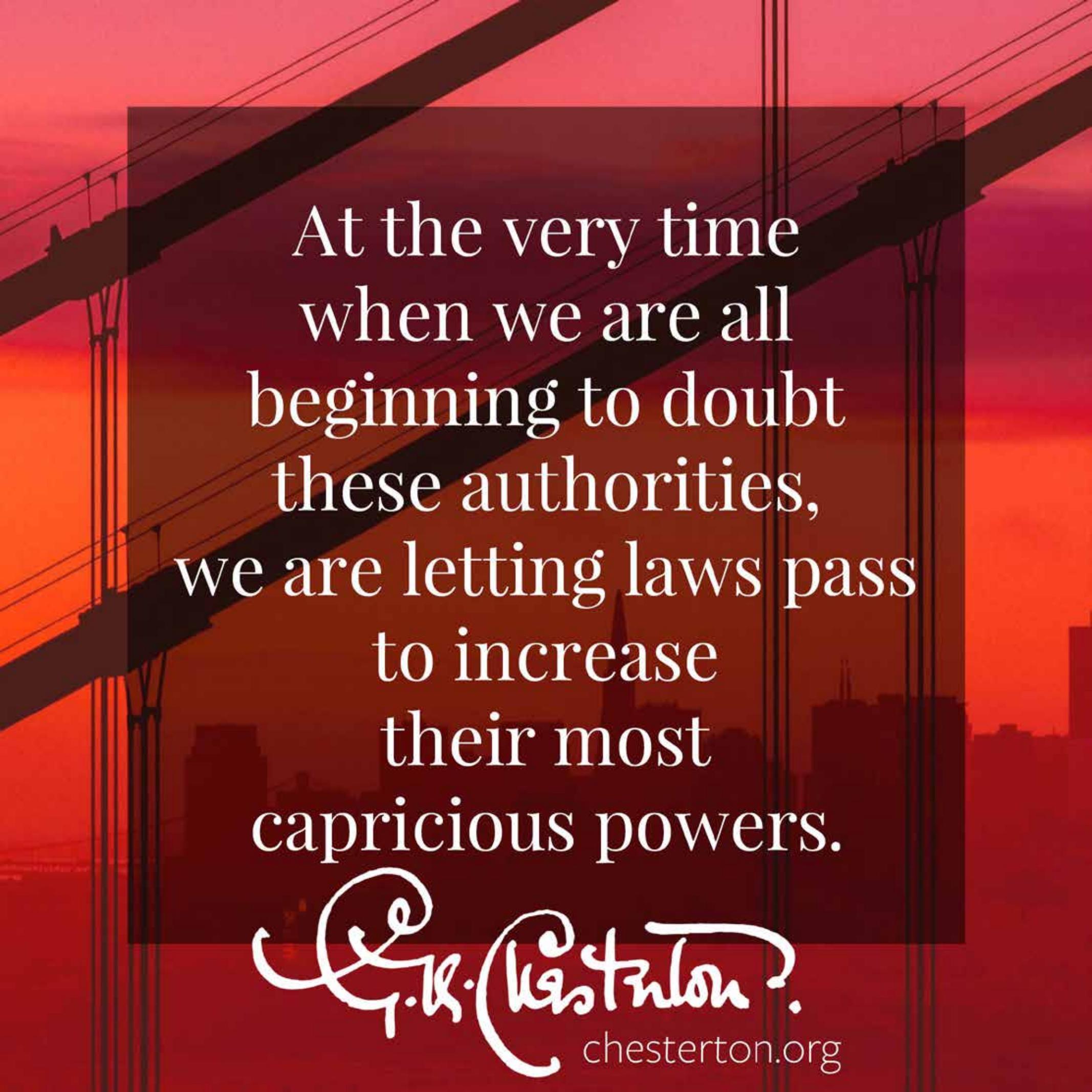
They never really thought  
that wrong was right,  
because they never really  
thought at all.

They merely believed what  
they were told; that being  
lawless was the latest thing.

Half our human effort  
is wasted on mere  
transit, transport,  
and exchange;  
the commonwealth is a  
clearinghouse of  
cases we never open and  
presents we never enjoy.

G.K. Chesterton?

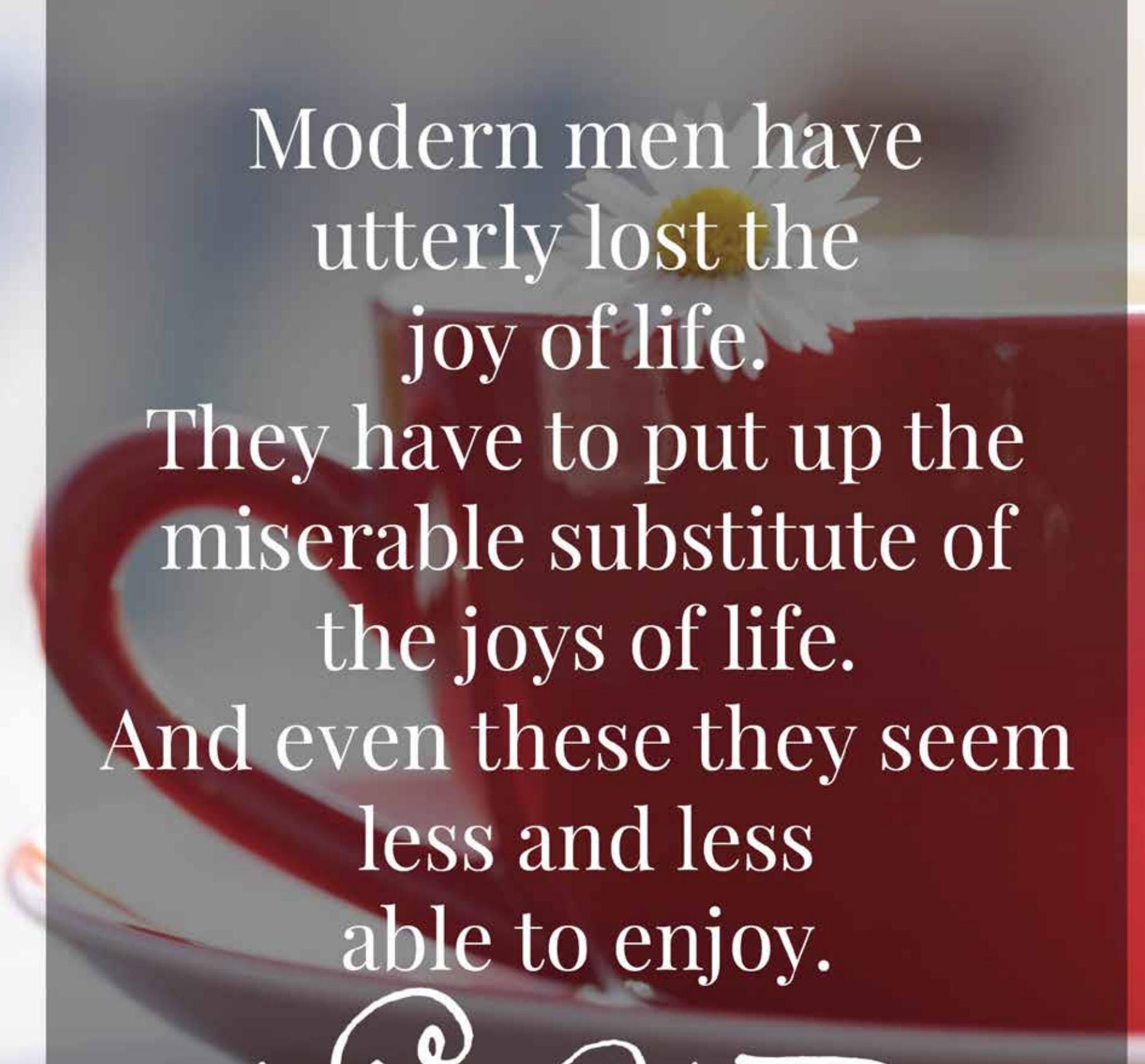
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At the very time  
when we are all  
beginning to doubt  
these authorities,  
we are letting laws pass  
to increase  
their most  
capricious powers.

g.k. chesterton?

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Modern men have  
utterly lost the  
joy of life.

They have to put up the  
miserable substitute of  
the joys of life.

And even these they seem  
less and less  
able to enjoy.

G.K. Chesterton

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There are two ways of  
getting home;  
and one of them  
is to stay there.

G.K. Chesterton

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The ancient virtues  
are not the limits,  
they are, rather  
the senses of the soul.

G.K. Chesterton

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A photograph of a man in a dark suit and tie walking down a wide set of light-colored stone steps. He is looking down at a small electronic device in his hands. The background shows the grand, classical architecture of a building with large, fluted columns and a high ceiling.

To have a right  
to do a thing is not  
at all the same as  
to be right  
in doing it.

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I have little doubt  
that when St. George  
had killed the dragon  
he was heartily afraid  
of the princess.

G.K. Chesterton

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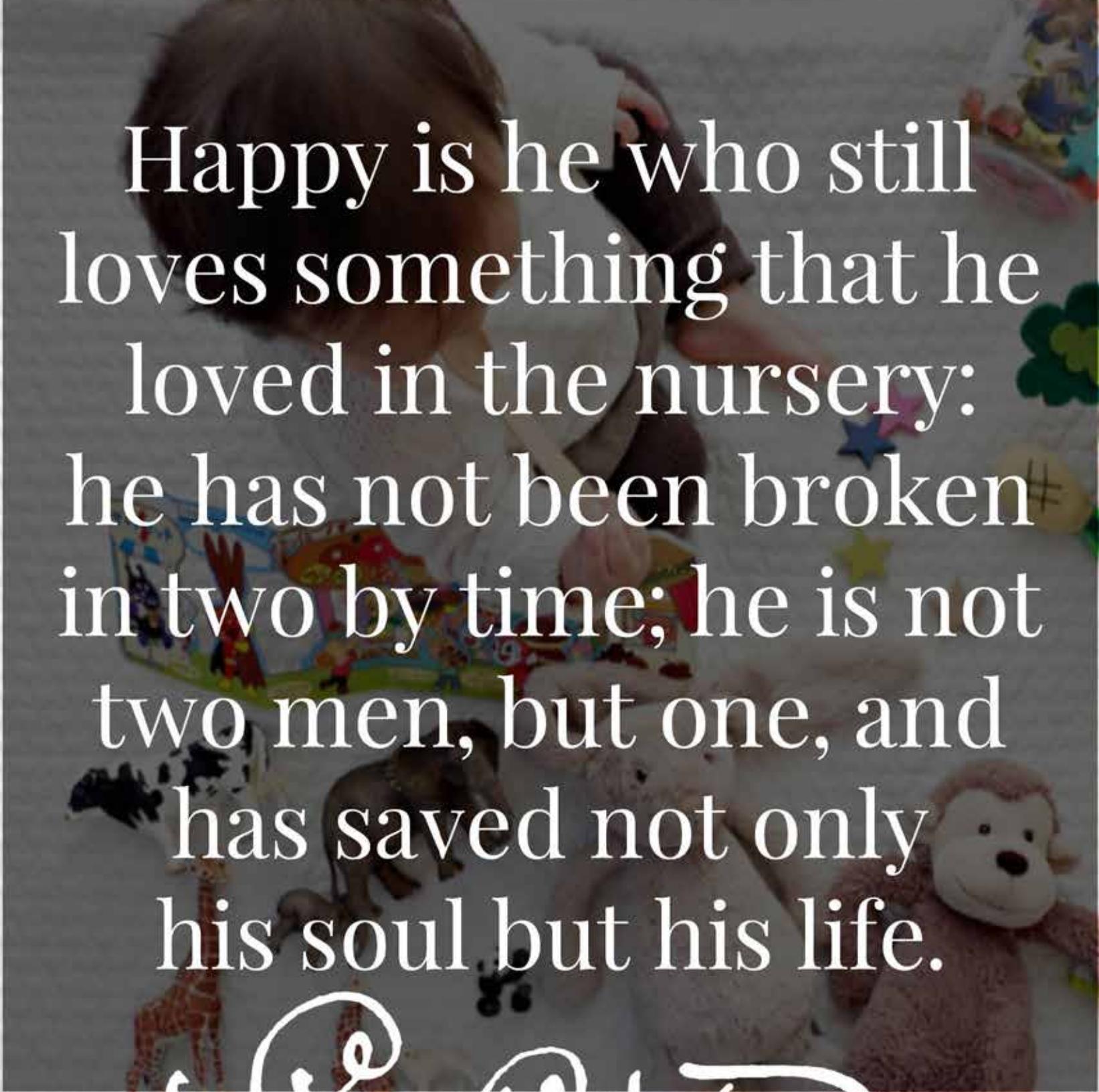


Art,  
like morality,  
consists of  
drawing the line  
somewhere.

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I do not believe in  
a fate that falls on men  
however they act;  
but I do believe in a  
fate that falls on them  
unless they act.

*G.K. Chesterton*  
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Happy is he who still loves something that he loved in the nursery: he has not been broken in two by time; he is not two men, but one, and has saved not only his soul but his life.

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We believe that it is possible to return to a normal good. And it is that readiness to be content with the normal which is now generally regarded as a form of lunacy.

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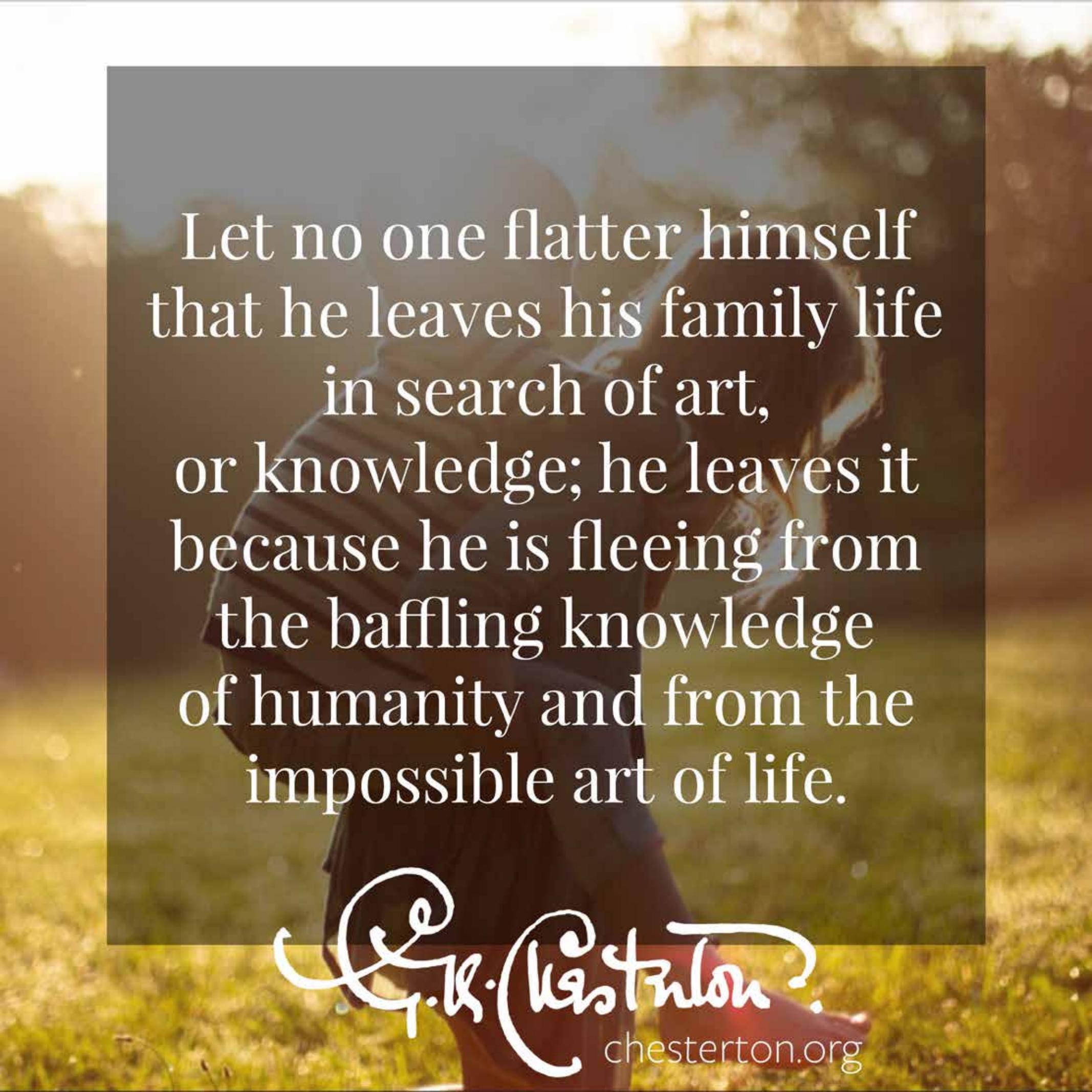


A dark, atmospheric image showing the silhouettes of several people standing in a room. The background is a warm, orange sunset or fire. The text is overlaid on this image.

The present tendency  
of social reform  
would seem to  
consist of destroying  
all traces of  
the parents.

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Let no one flatter himself  
that he leaves his family life  
in search of art,  
or knowledge; he leaves it  
because he is fleeing from  
the baffling knowledge  
of humanity and from the  
impossible art of life.

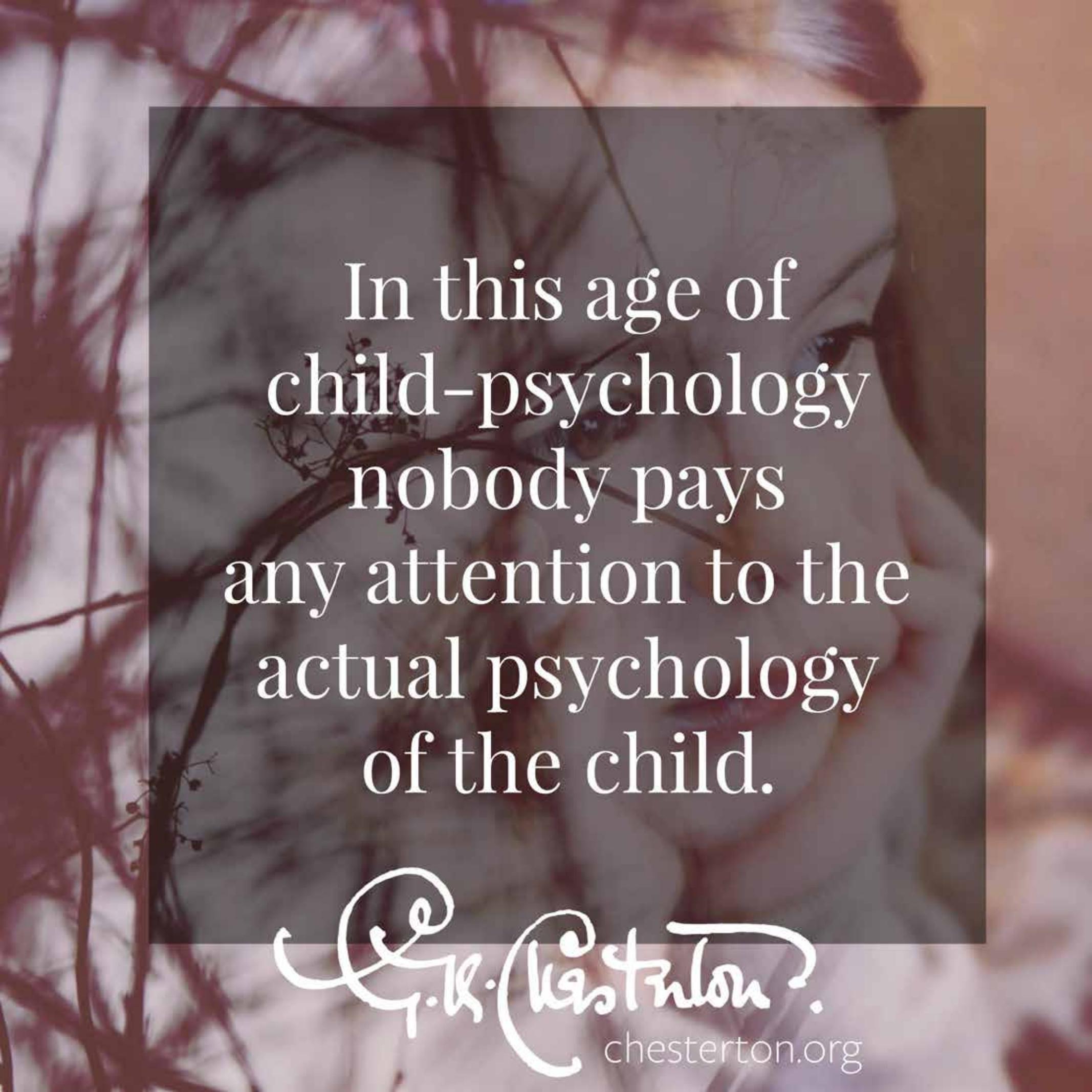
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The disintegration of  
rational society  
started in the drift  
from the hearth  
and the family;  
the solution must be  
a drift back.



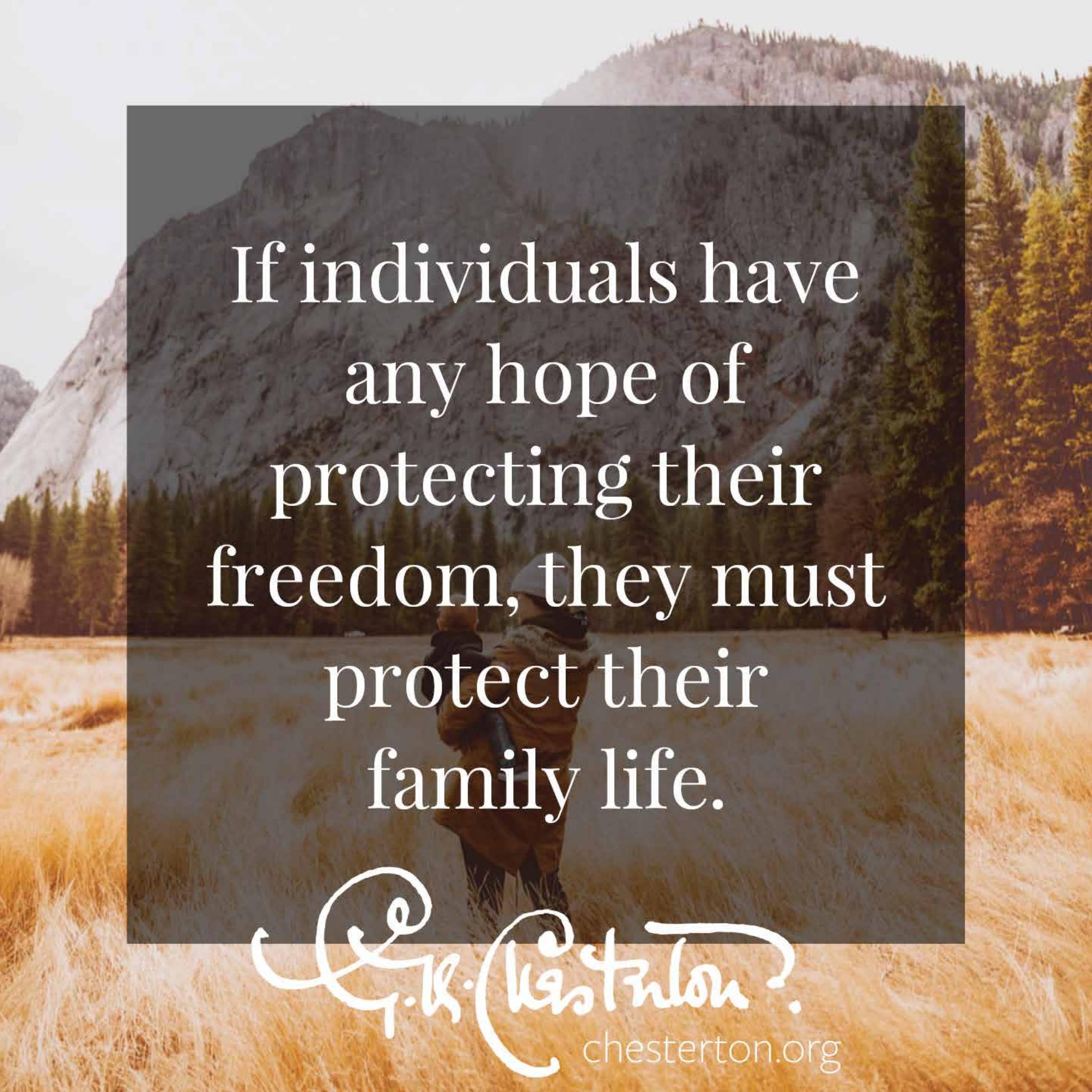
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In this age of  
child-psychology  
nobody pays  
any attention to the  
actual psychology  
of the child.

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A scenic landscape featuring a large, rugged mountain in the background, its slopes covered with dense green and yellow foliage. In the foreground, a person wearing a hat and a dark coat is walking through a field of tall, golden-brown grass. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

If individuals have  
any hope of  
protecting their  
freedom, they must  
protect their  
family life.

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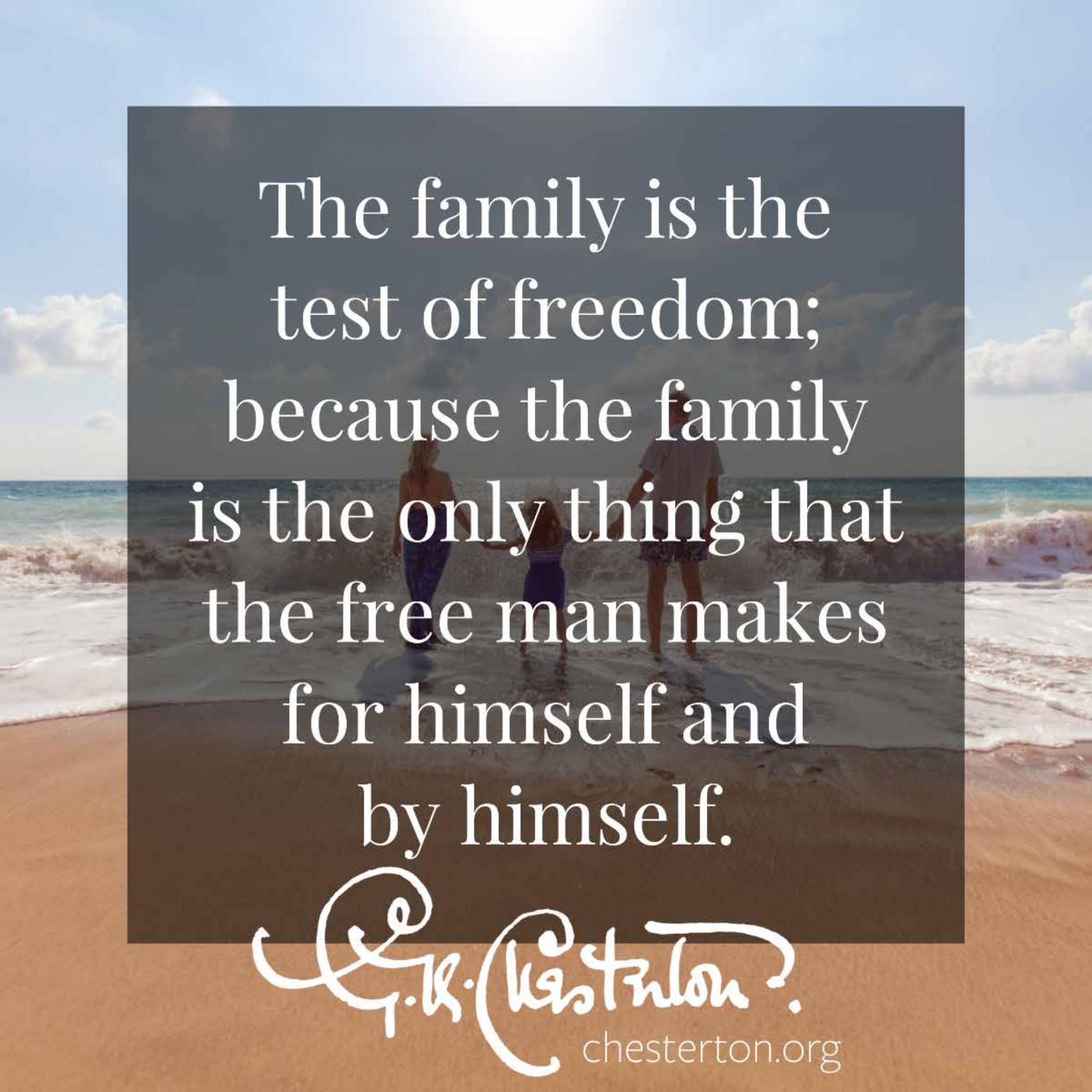
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A young girl with blonde hair tied back with a blue bow is sitting on a blue blanket in a park. She is wearing a blue dress and is looking down at a book she is holding. The background is a blurred green landscape.

Little children  
ought to learn  
nothing but legends;  
they are the  
beginnings of all  
sound morals and  
manners.

G.K. Chesterton

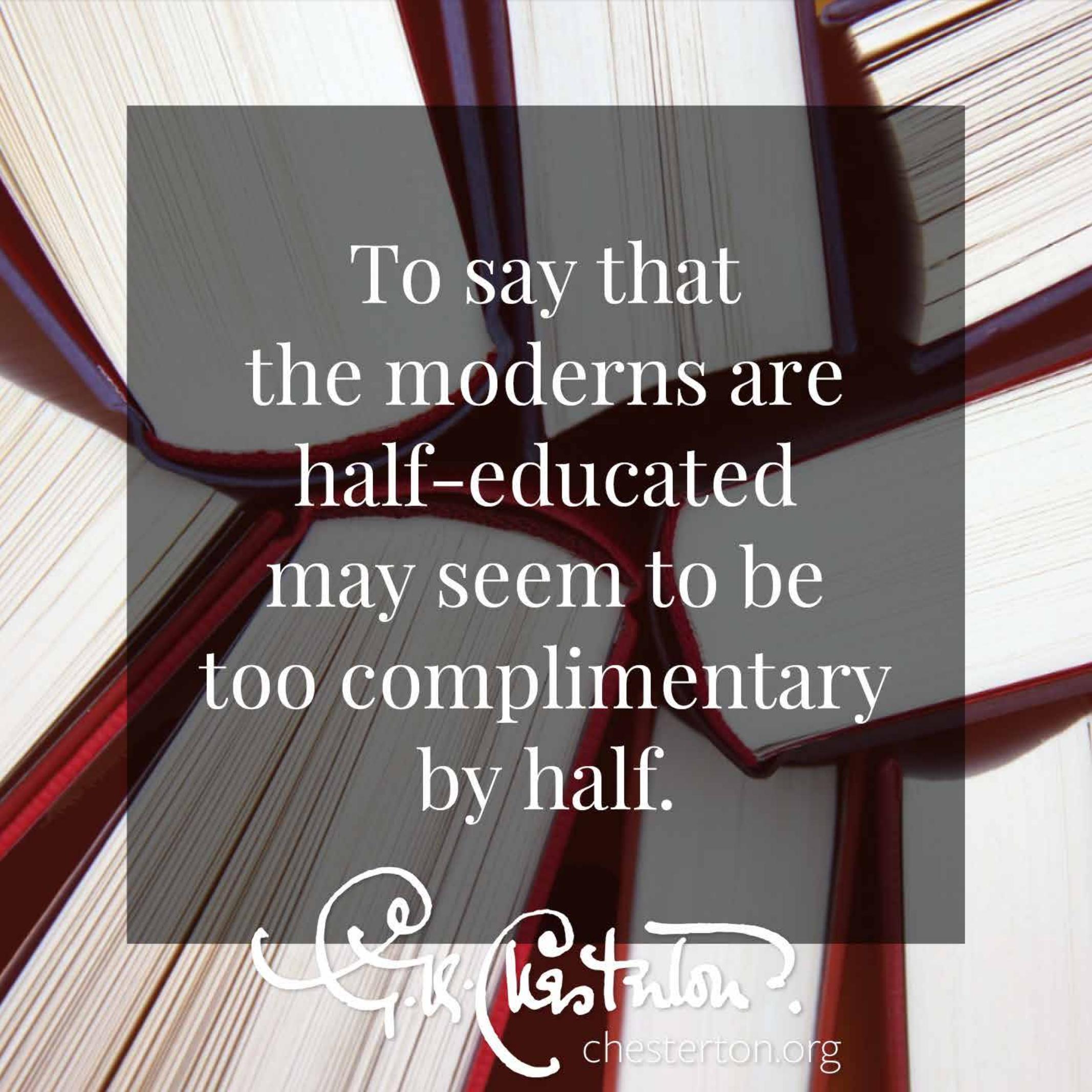
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A photograph of a couple walking along a sandy beach at sunset. The sky is filled with warm, orange and yellow hues, and the ocean waves are visible in the background. The couple is walking away from the camera, towards the horizon.

The family is the  
test of freedom;  
because the family  
is the only thing that  
the free man makes  
for himself and  
by himself.

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To say that  
the moderns are  
half-educated  
may seem to be  
too complimentary  
by half.

G.K. Chesterton

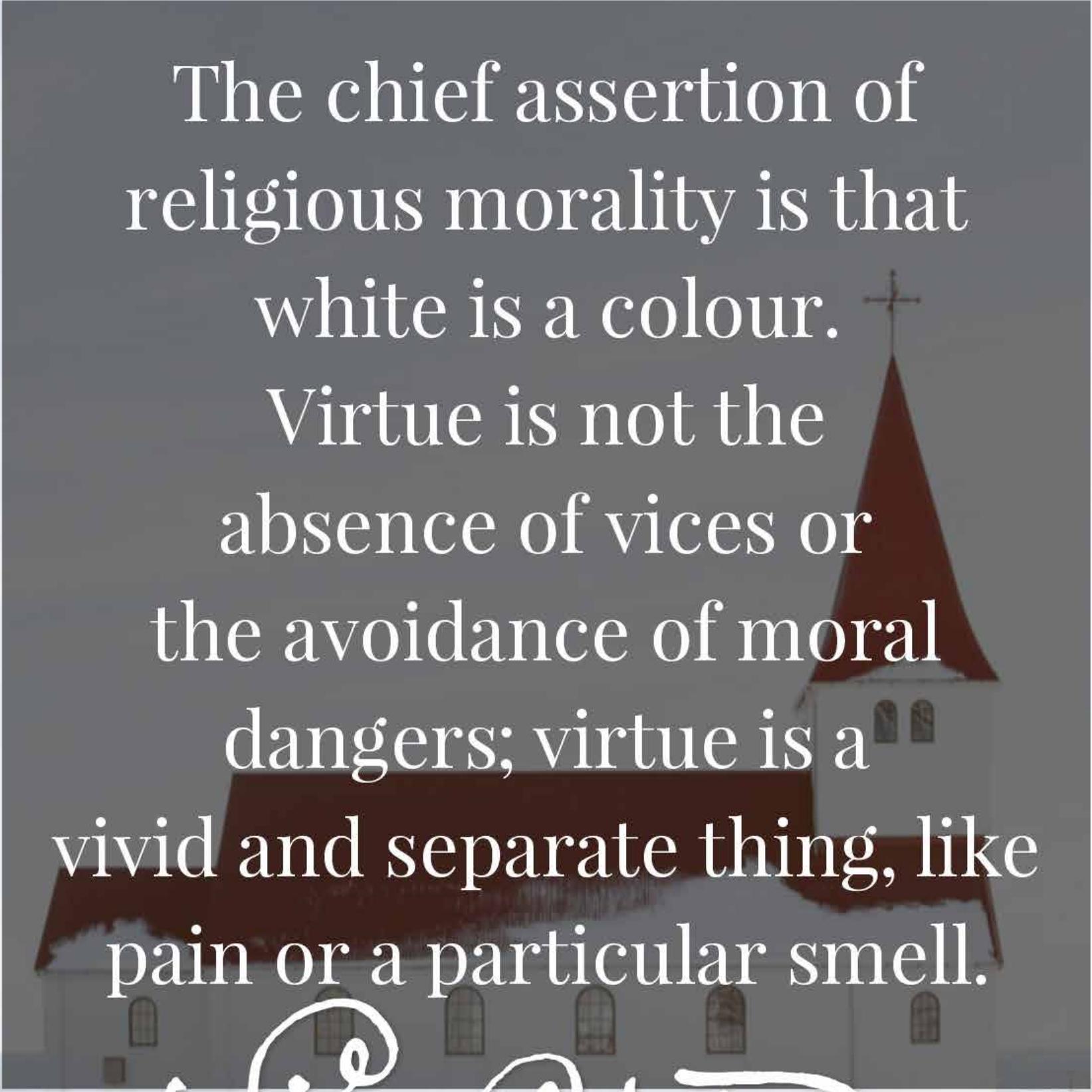
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The new religions  
of the suburbs are  
feminism and  
eugenics and  
prohibition and  
probably  
vegetarianism.

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The chief assertion of religious morality is that white is a colour. Virtue is not the absence of vices or the avoidance of moral dangers; virtue is a vivid and separate thing, like pain or a particular smell.



gk Chesterton

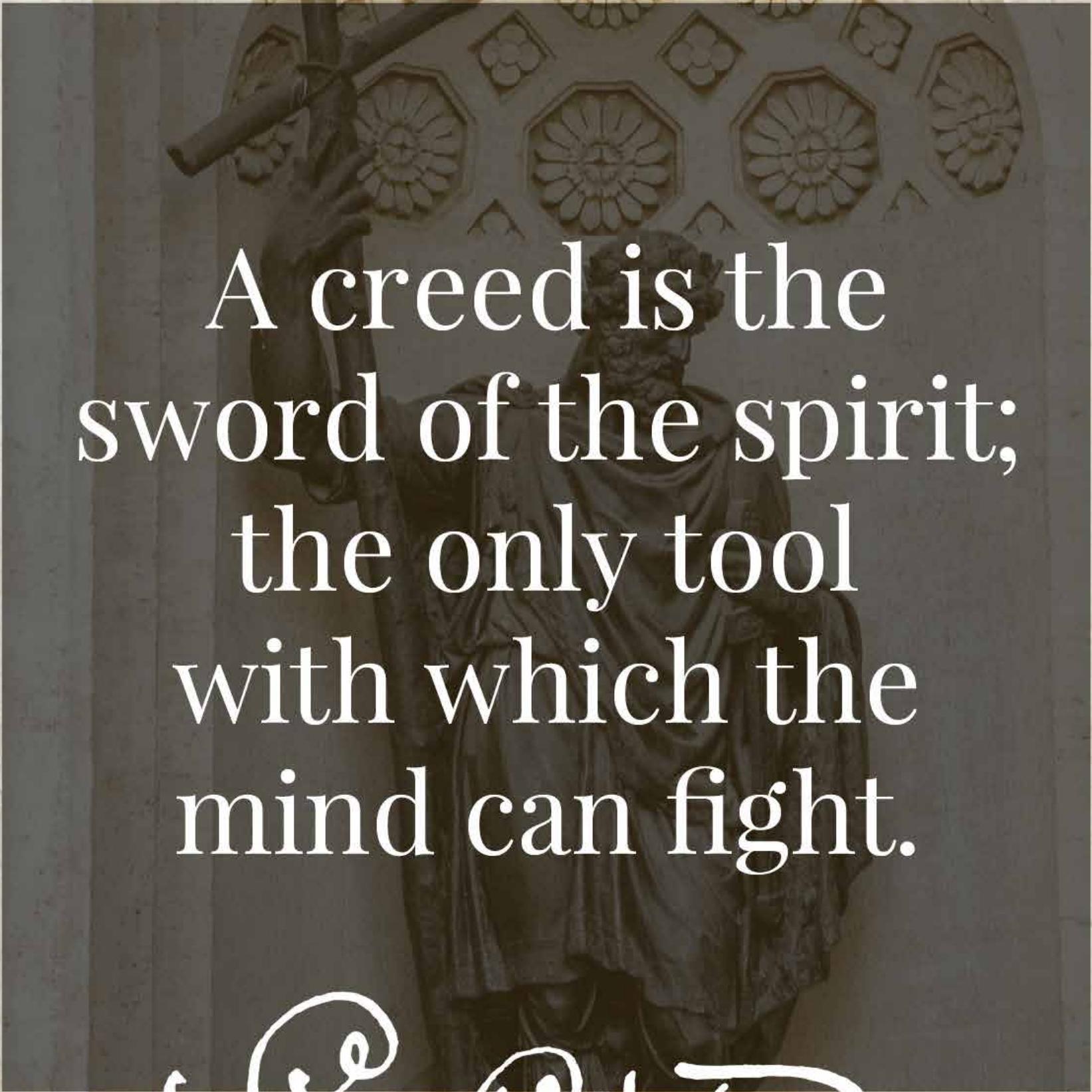
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It is surely plain  
that the housewife is  
not the bird  
in the cage, but the  
bird in the nest.

G.K. Chesterton

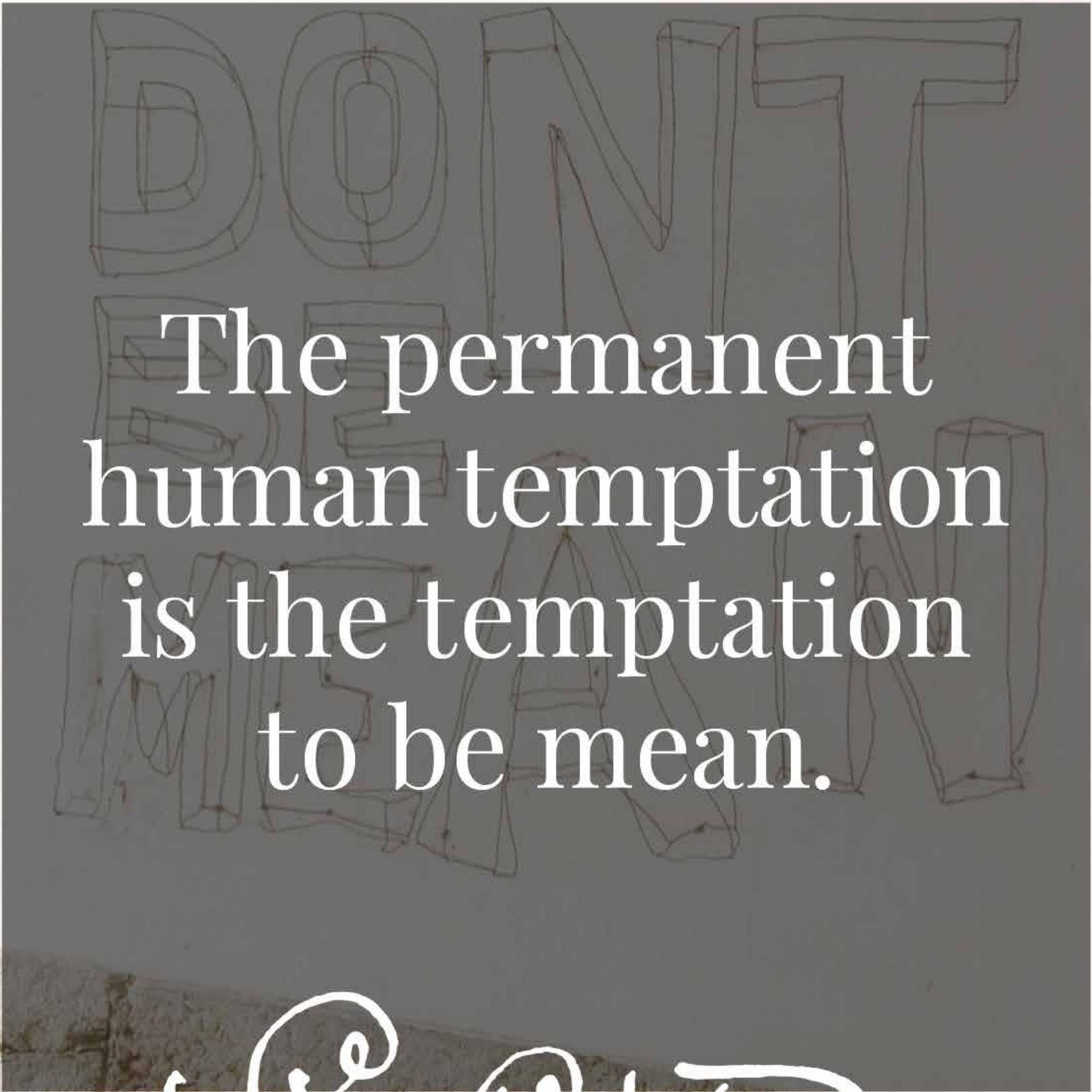
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A creed is the  
sword of the spirit;  
the only tool  
with which the  
mind can fight.

G.K. Chesterton

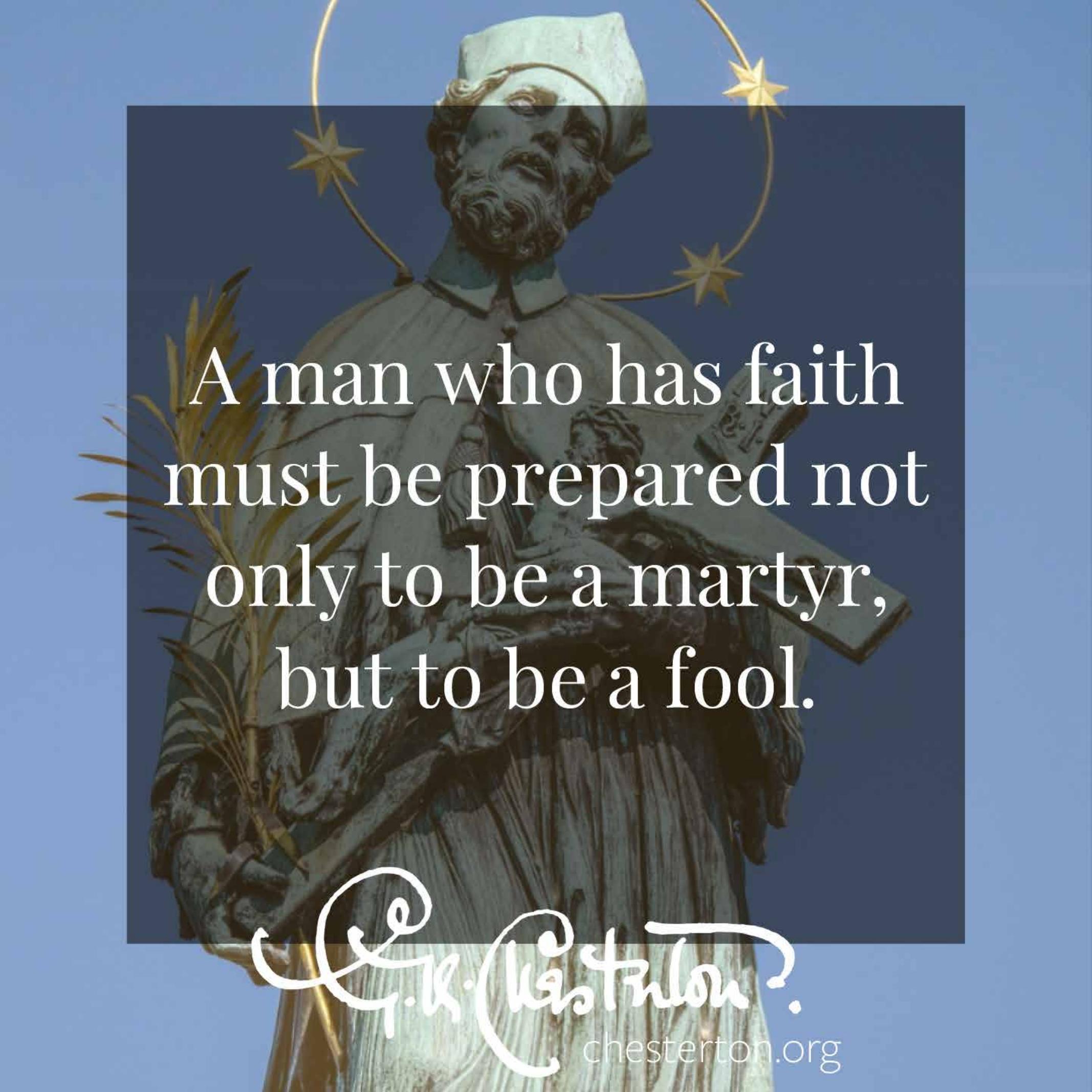
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The permanent  
human temptation  
is the temptation  
to be mean.

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A man who has faith  
must be prepared not  
only to be a martyr,  
but to be a fool.

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The most dangerous  
criminal now is the  
entirely lawless  
modern philosopher.  
Compared to him,  
burglars and bigamists  
are essentially  
moral men.

G.K. Chesterton?

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It is by this time  
practically quite  
impossible to  
get the truth out  
of any newspapers.

Q.K. Chesterton?

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There is an atmosphere  
of compromise  
everywhere at  
the present instant, and  
of what always  
goes with compromise  
- secrecy.

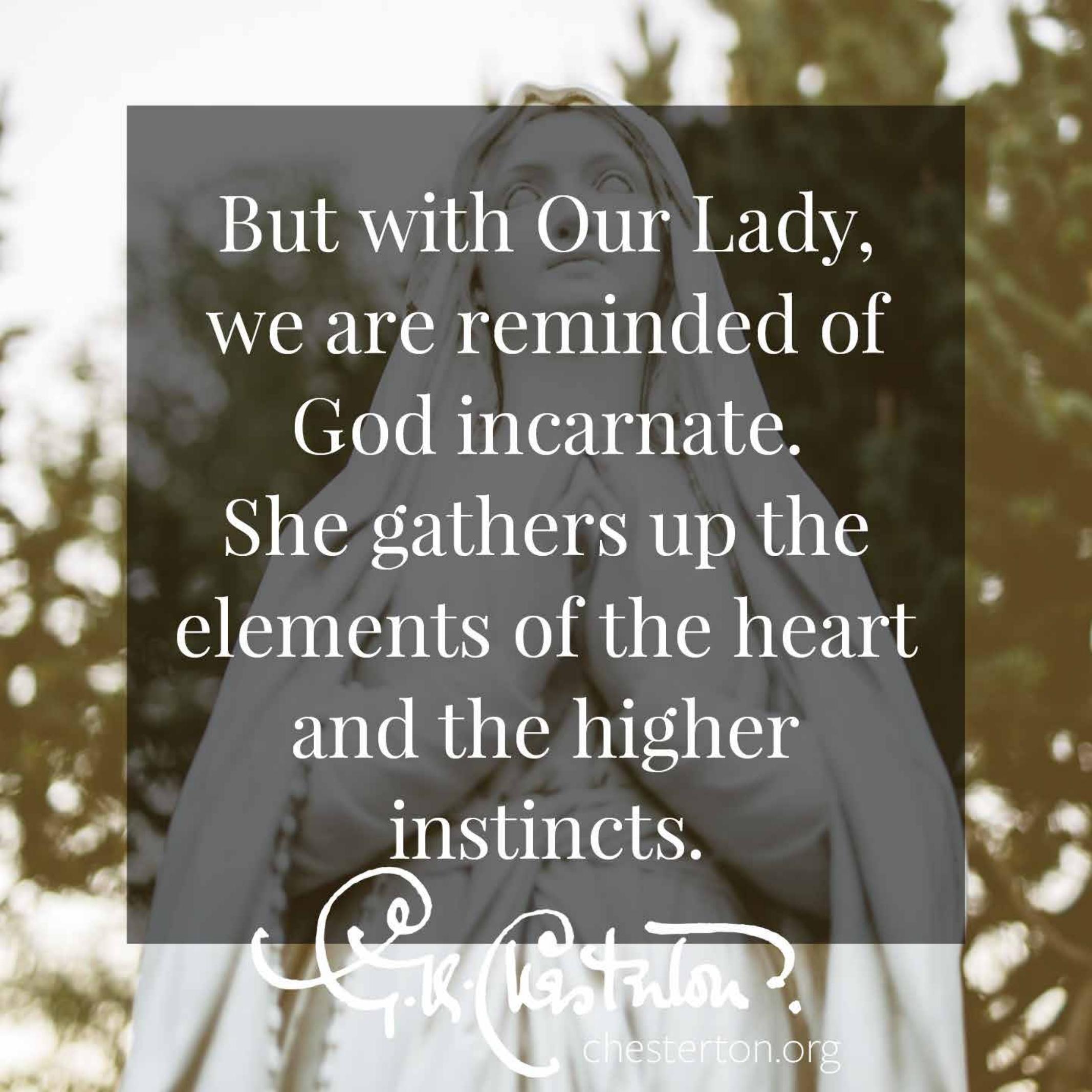
G.K. Chesterton?

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A light touch is  
the mark of strength.

G.K. Chesterton

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But with Our Lady,  
we are reminded of  
God incarnate.  
She gathers up the  
elements of the heart  
and the higher  
instincts.

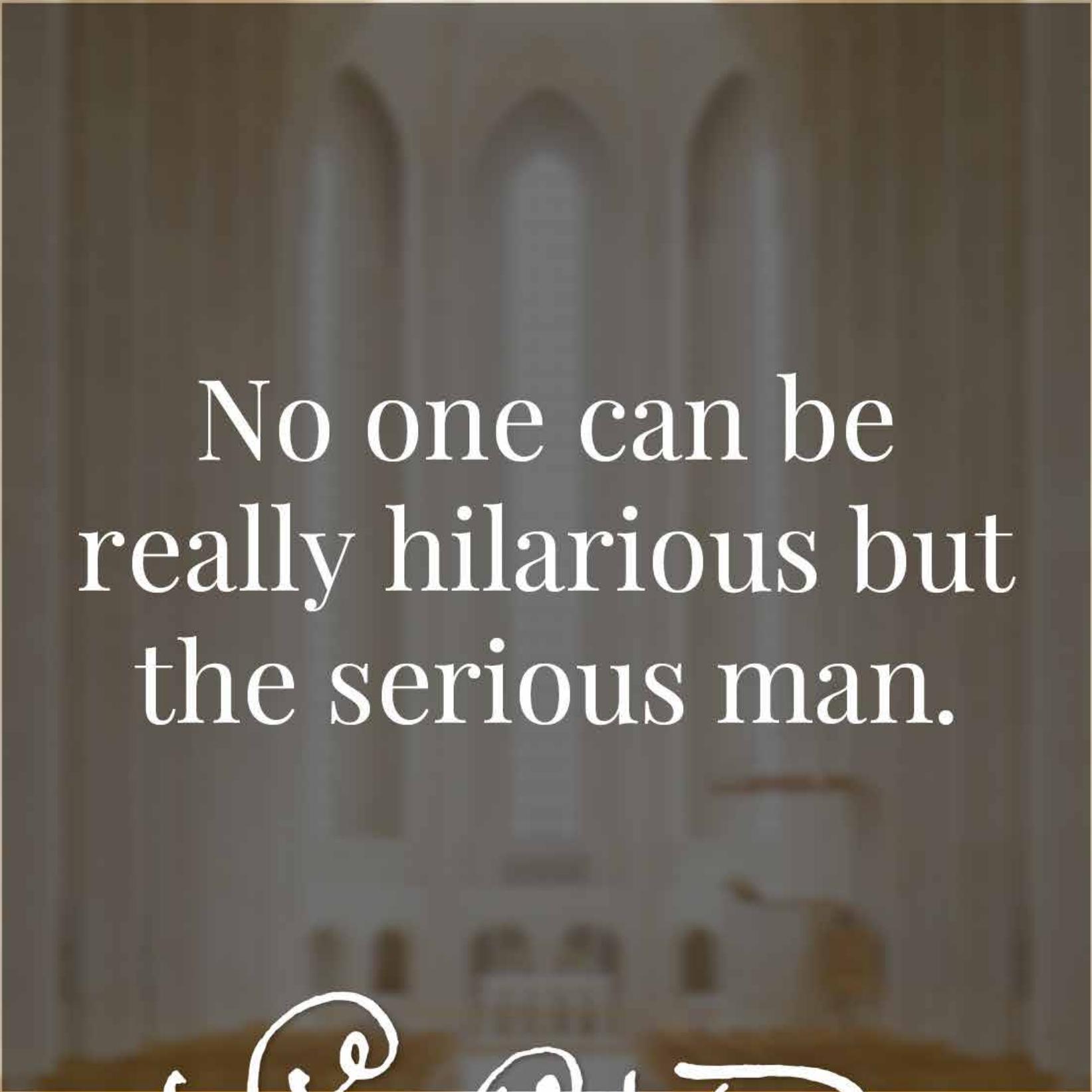
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What is wrong with  
our civilization  
can be said in one  
word - unreality.  
We are in danger of  
forgetting all facts,  
good and bad, in a  
haze of high-minded  
phraseology.

The signature of G.K. Chesterton, written in a flowing, cursive script. The letters are interconnected, with 'G.K.' on the left and 'Chesterton' on the right, separated by a small circle.

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No one can be  
really hilarious but  
the serious man.

G.K. Chesterton?

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Most men would  
return to the old ways  
in faith and morals  
if they would broaden  
their minds enough  
to do so.

G.K. Chesterton?

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The cosmos is  
a diagram just  
beautifully bent  
out of shape.  
Everything tries  
to be straight; and  
everything just  
fortunately fails.

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What is now called  
free thought is  
valued, not because  
it is free thought, but  
because it is freedom  
from thought.

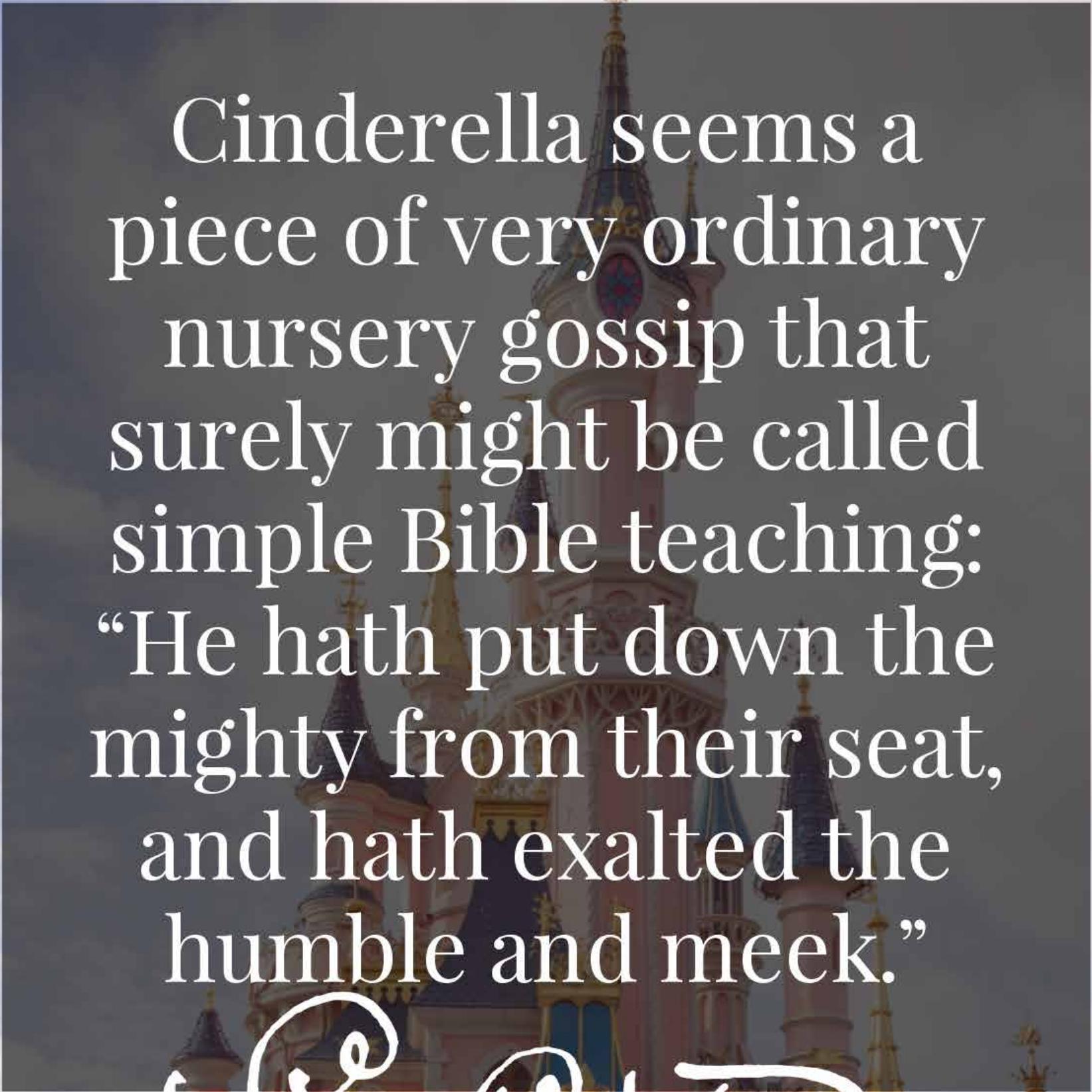
G.K. Chesterton

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Modern toleration is  
merely a tyranny.  
It is a tyranny because  
it is a silence.  
To say that I must not  
deny my opponent's  
faith is to say  
I must not discuss it.

G.K. Chesterton

[chesterton.org](http://chesterton.org)



Cinderella seems a piece of very ordinary nursery gossip that surely might be called simple Bible teaching: “He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.”



G.K. Chesterton

chesterton.org



Neither nature  
nor wine  
nor anything else  
can be enjoyed  
if we have the  
wrong attitude  
towards happiness.

G.K. Chesterton?

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Real simplicity is to be  
achieved by finding again  
the simple heart, and  
the simple heart is not  
intolerant of splendors  
or developments, but  
rather includes them all.

G.K. Chesterton

[chesterton.org](http://chesterton.org)



The real weakness  
in civilization,  
ours especially,  
is best expressed by  
saying that it cares  
more for science  
than for truth.

G.K. Chesterton

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Hypocrisy is the attempt to remedy a mistake without admitting it. St. Peter denied the Lord; but at least he never denied that he had denied Him.



G.K. Chesterton

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If a Christian  
has a feast day,  
he must have  
a fast day too.

G.K. Chesterton

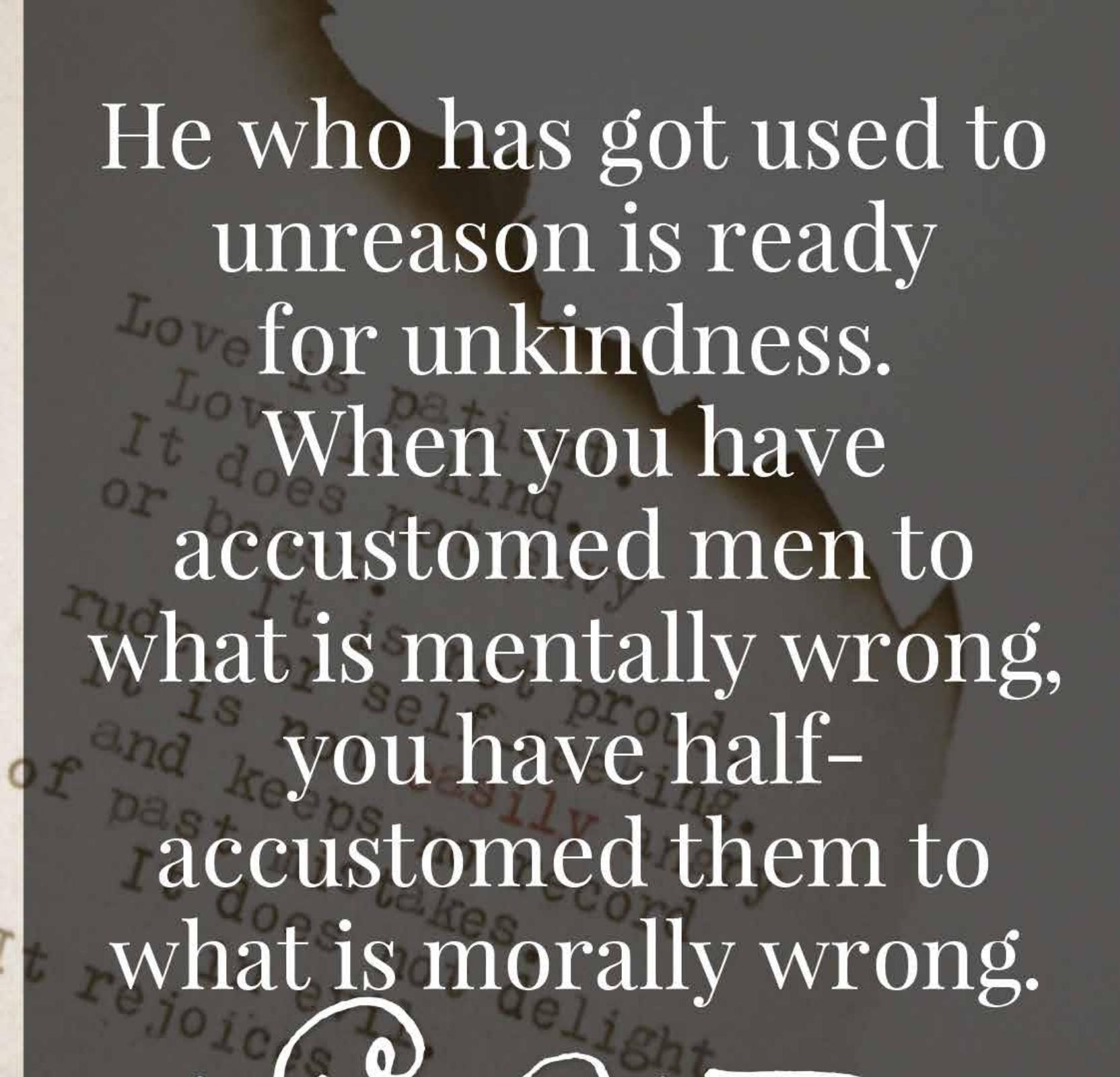
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Wherever men are  
still theological there  
is still some chance  
of their being logical.

G.K. Chesterton

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He who has got used to  
unreason is ready  
for unkindness.

When you have  
accustomed men to  
what is mentally wrong,  
you have half-  
accustomed them to  
what is morally wrong.

Quentin Chesterton

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There is no such  
thing on earth as an  
uninteresting subject;  
the only thing that  
can exist is an  
uninterested person.

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The press has ceased  
to be representative,  
and become almost  
solely oppressive.

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