

A black and white portrait of G.K. Chesterton, showing him from the chest up. He has curly hair, a mustache, and is wearing round-rimmed glasses and a dark jacket over a white shirt. The portrait is framed by a white border.

G.K. Chesterton Quotation Series

THE SOCIETY OF GILBERT KEITH CHESTERTON

G.K. 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?

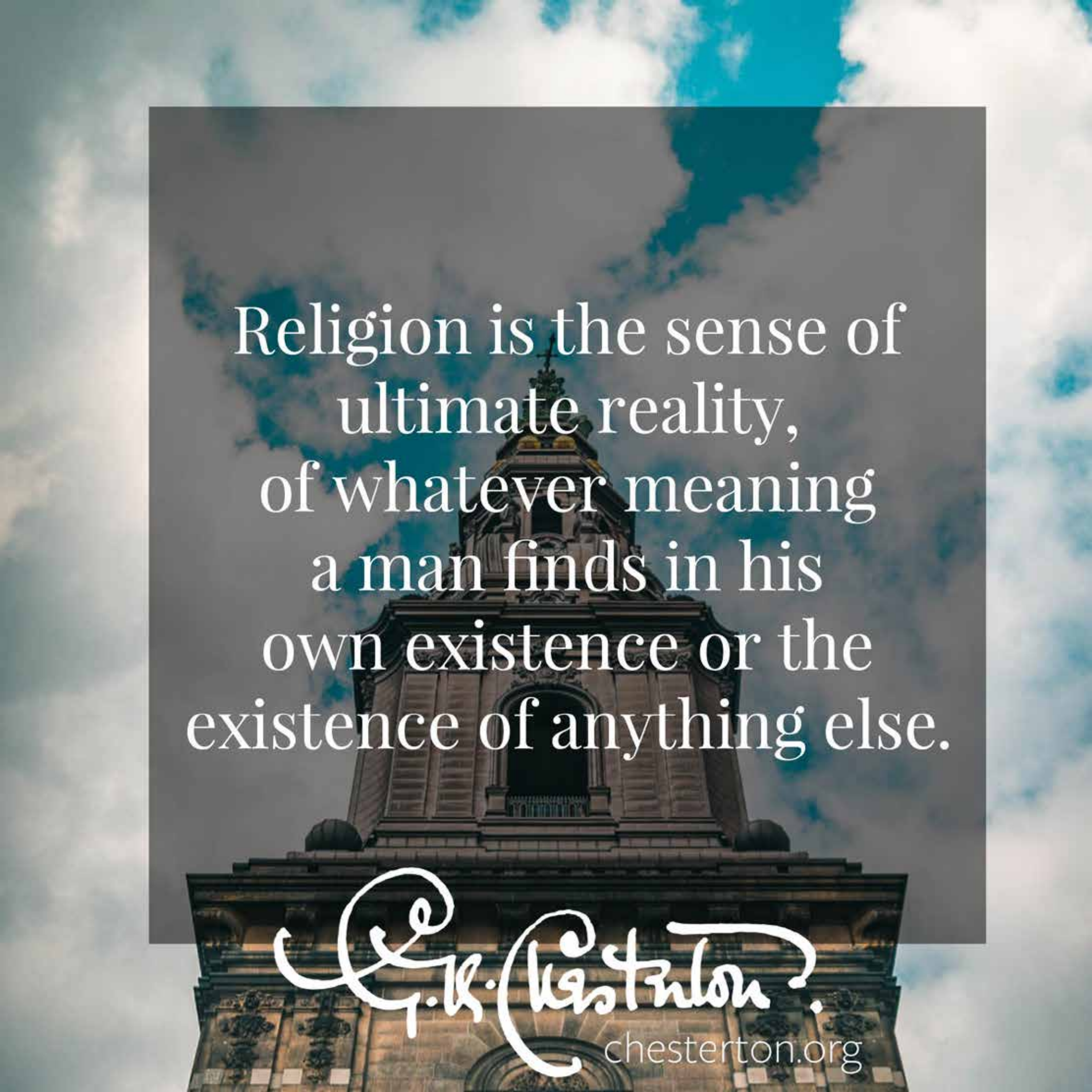
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The image features a grayscale photograph of the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The statue is shown from the waist up, with its arms outstretched horizontally. It is set against a background that is a vertical gradient, transitioning from a light blue at the top to a soft pink at the bottom. Overlaid on the center of the image is a quote in a white serif font. At the bottom, there is a stylized signature in white script and a website address in a smaller white sans-serif font.

Opponents of Christianity
will believe anything
except Christianity.

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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.

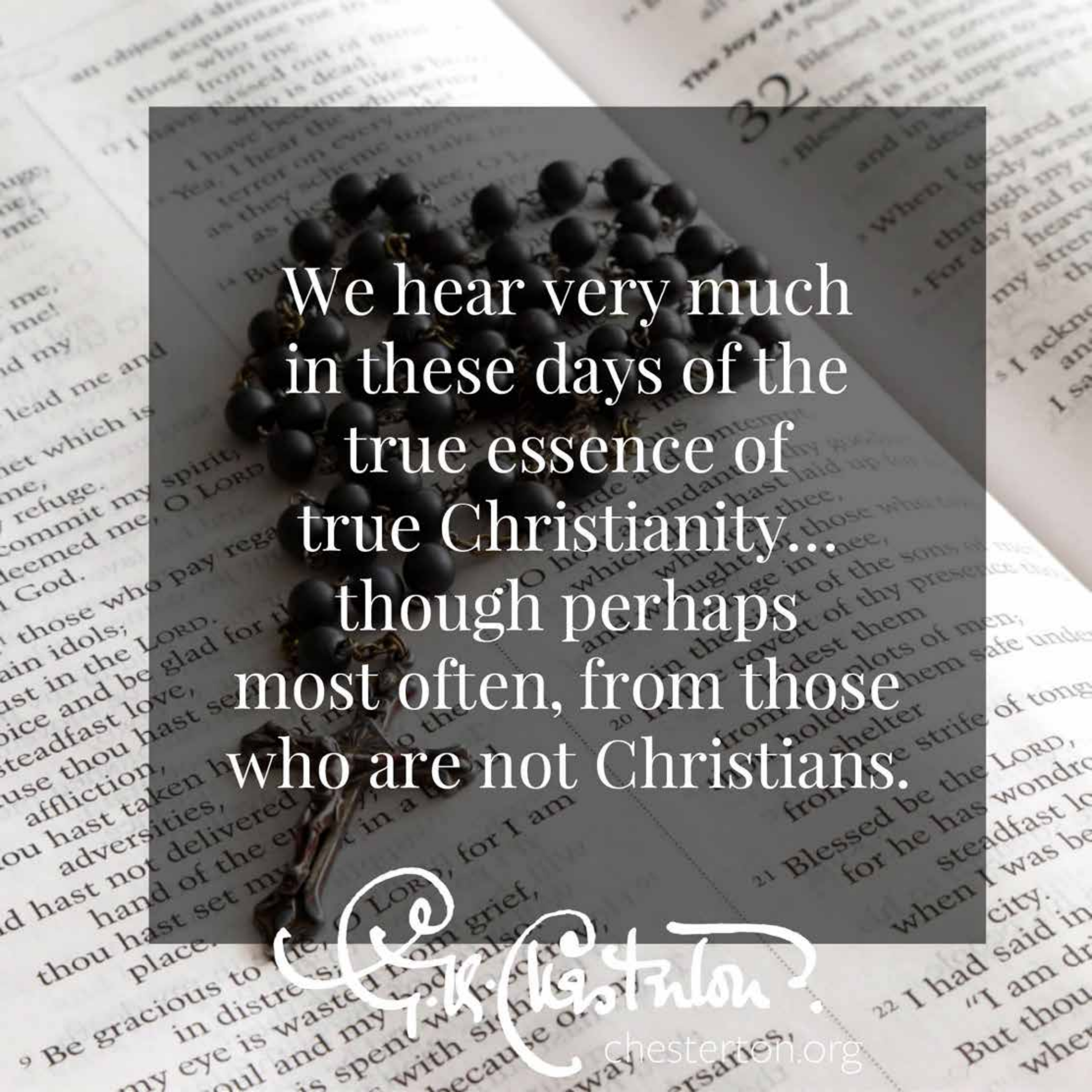
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In the modern town,
there are no neighbors,
but only strangers
next door.

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.

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The background of the image is a composite of three distinct scenes. On the right, a person's hands are shown typing on a silver laptop keyboard. In the center, a white teacup filled with yellow liquid and garnished with small pink flowers sits on a matching saucer. On the left, a bouquet of pink and purple flowers with green leaves is visible. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangle is overlaid in the upper half of the image, containing the main text.

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.

L. H. Chesterton

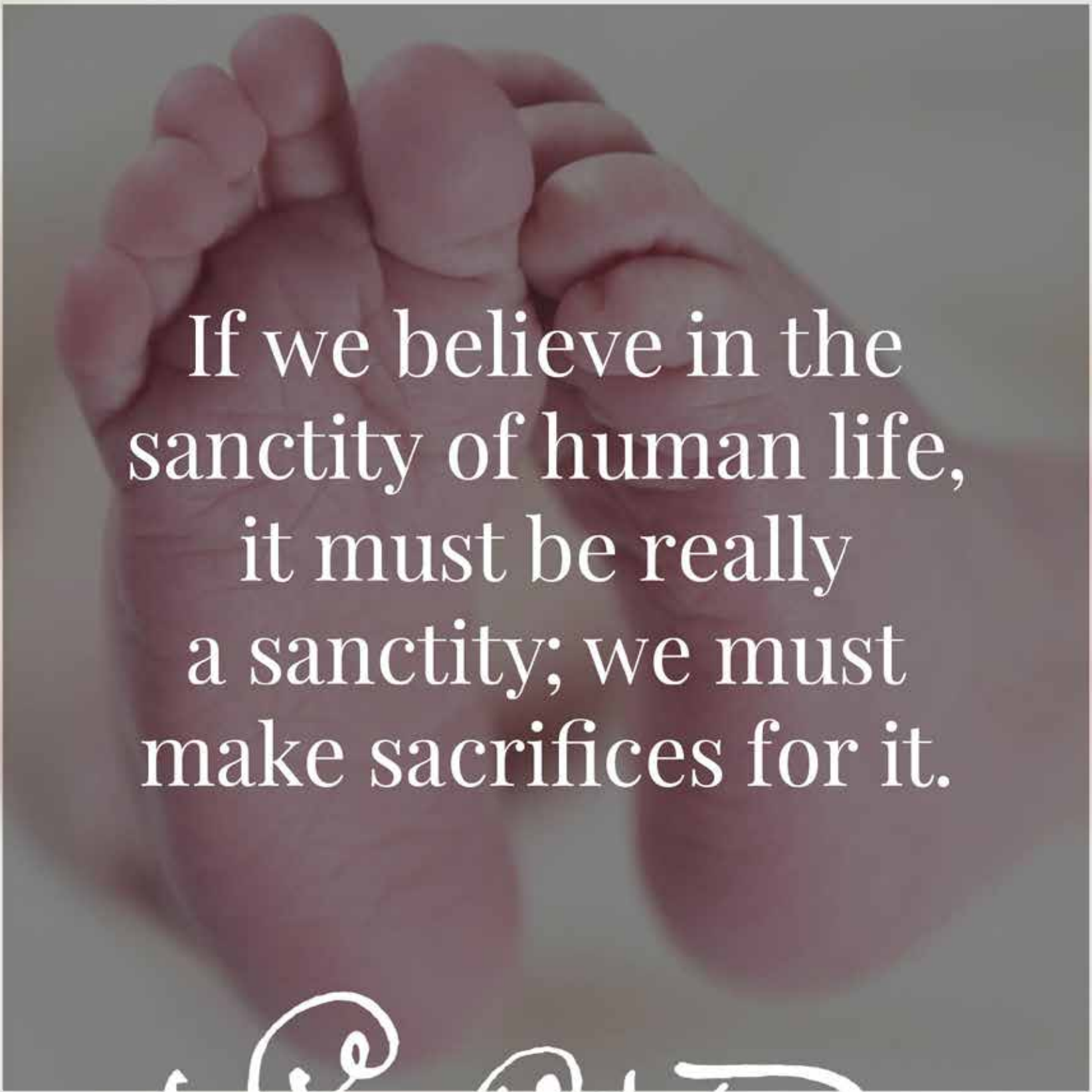
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If there were no God,
there would be
no atheists.


Ch. 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.

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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.

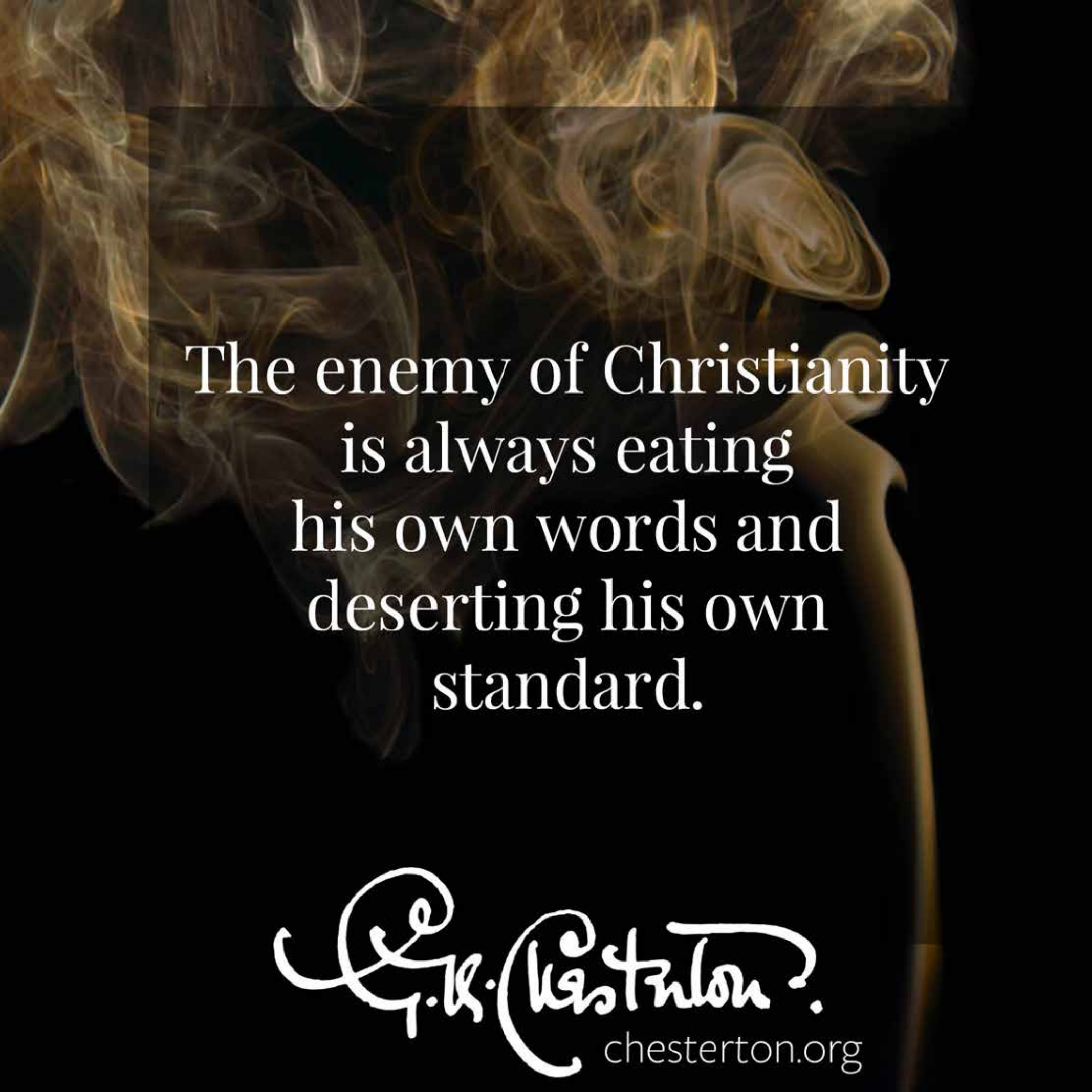
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It is always wiser
to consider not so much
why a thing is
not enjoyable, as why we
ourselves do not enjoy it.

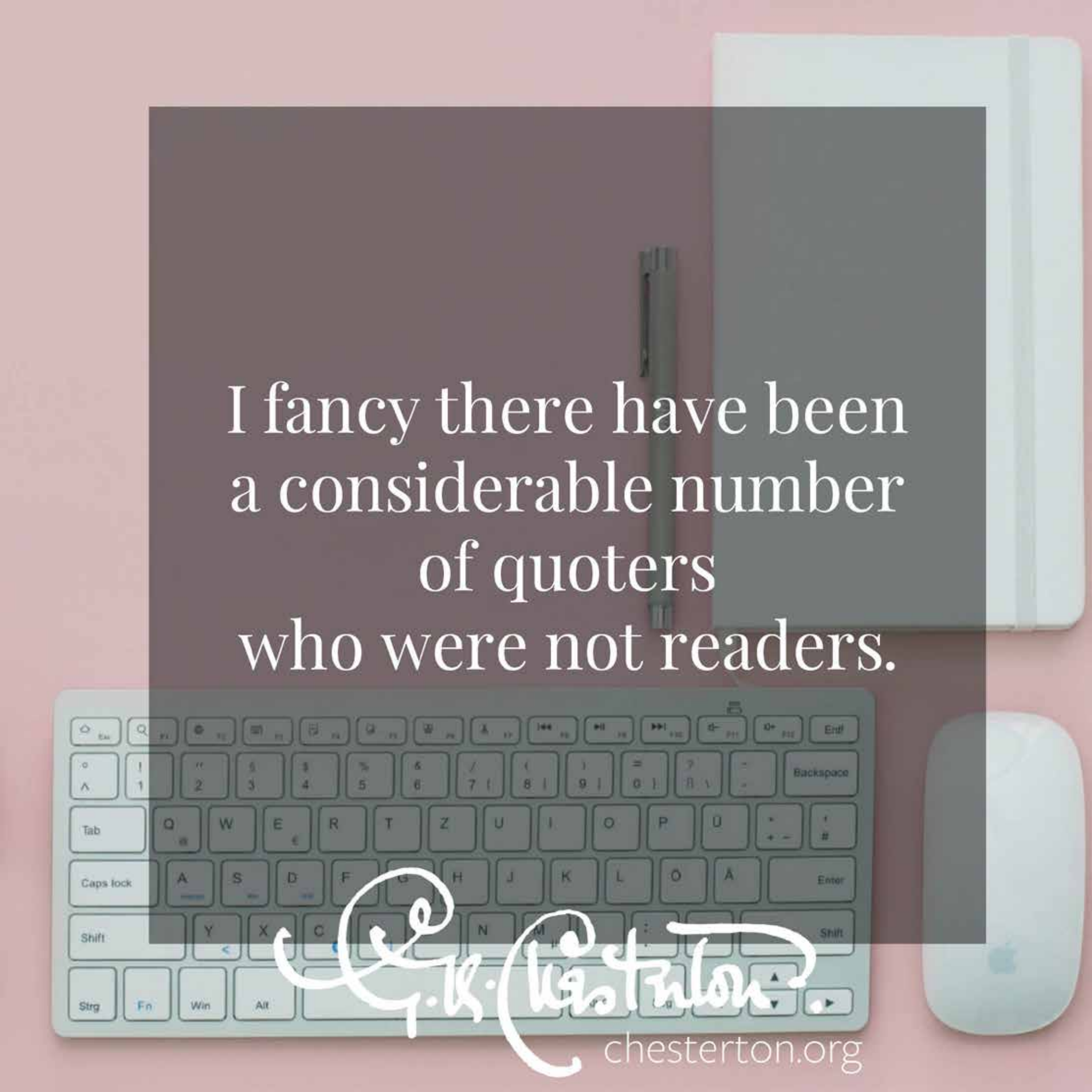
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The enemy of Christianity
is always eating
his own words and
deserting his own
standard.

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

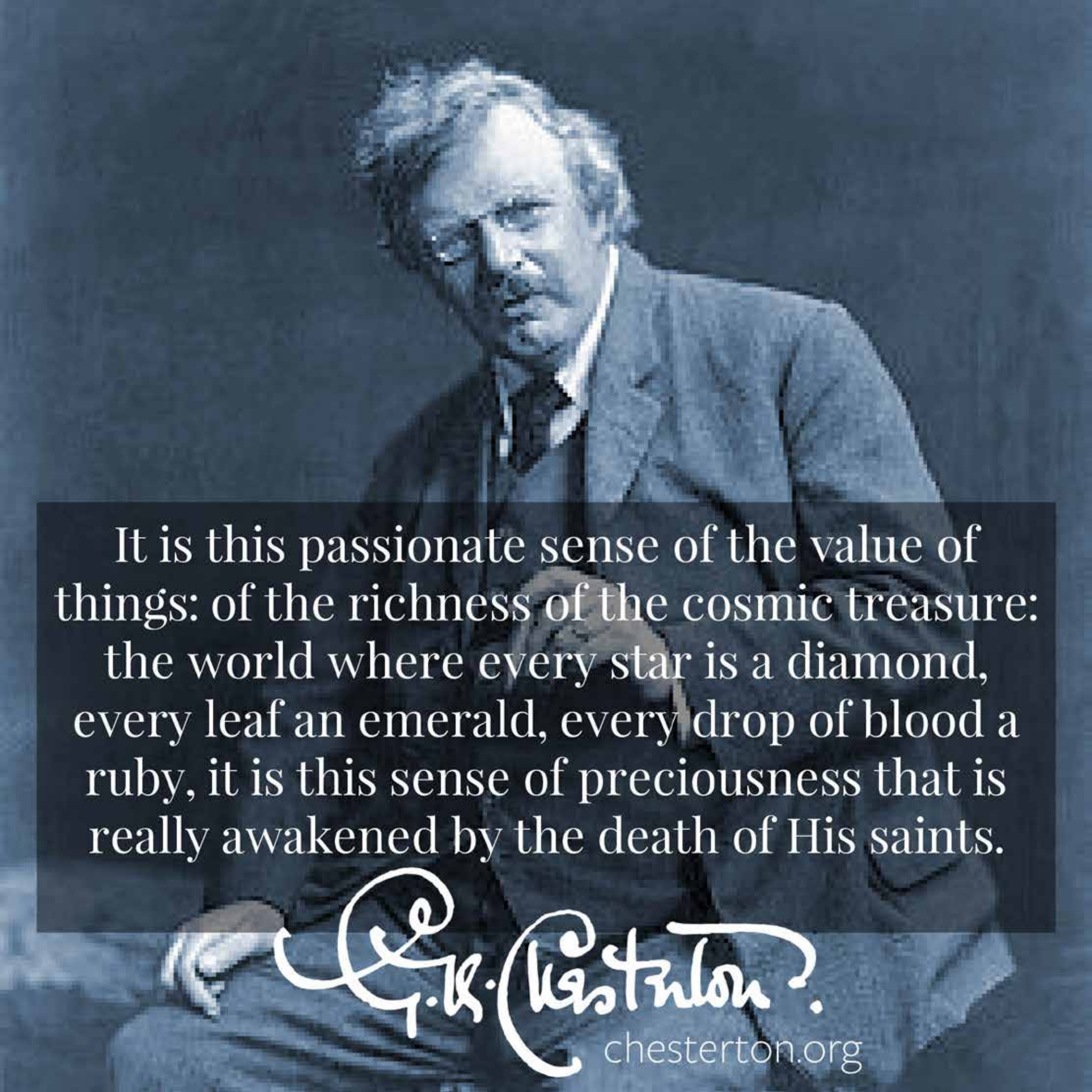
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The only object
of liberty is life.

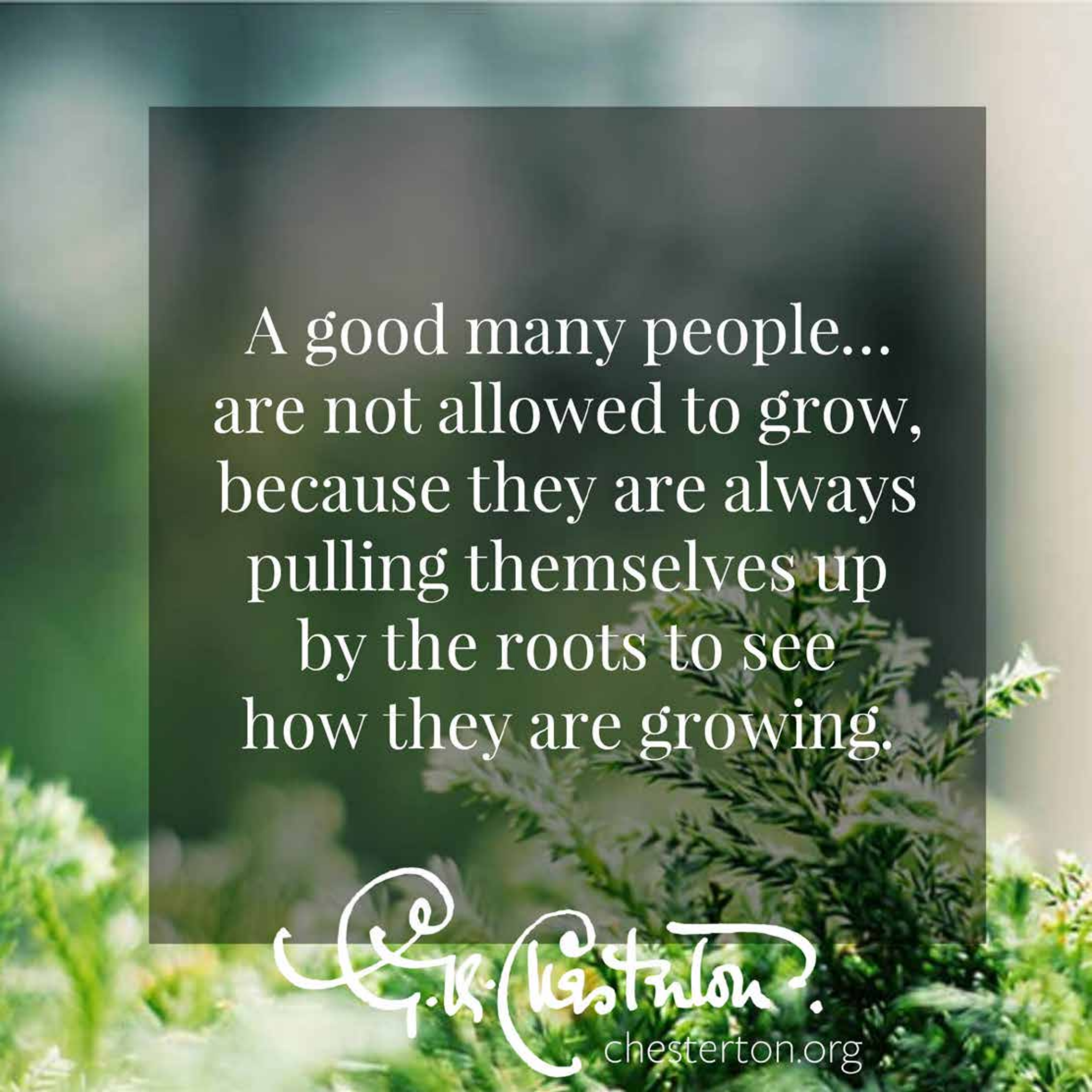
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It is this passionate sense of the value of things: of the richness of the cosmic treasure: the world where every star is a diamond, every leaf an emerald, every drop of blood a ruby, it is this sense of preciousness that is really awakened by the 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 person with dark hair, seen from behind, is carrying two young children. They are walking through a field of tall green grass and numerous red poppies. The background is a soft-focus landscape with trees and a pale sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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.

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

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A hand holding a smartphone in front of a blurred city street at night. The phone's screen shows a camera viewfinder with a grid overlay. The background is a dark, out-of-focus urban scene with light trails from traffic and building lights.

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

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

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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.

G.K. Chesterton

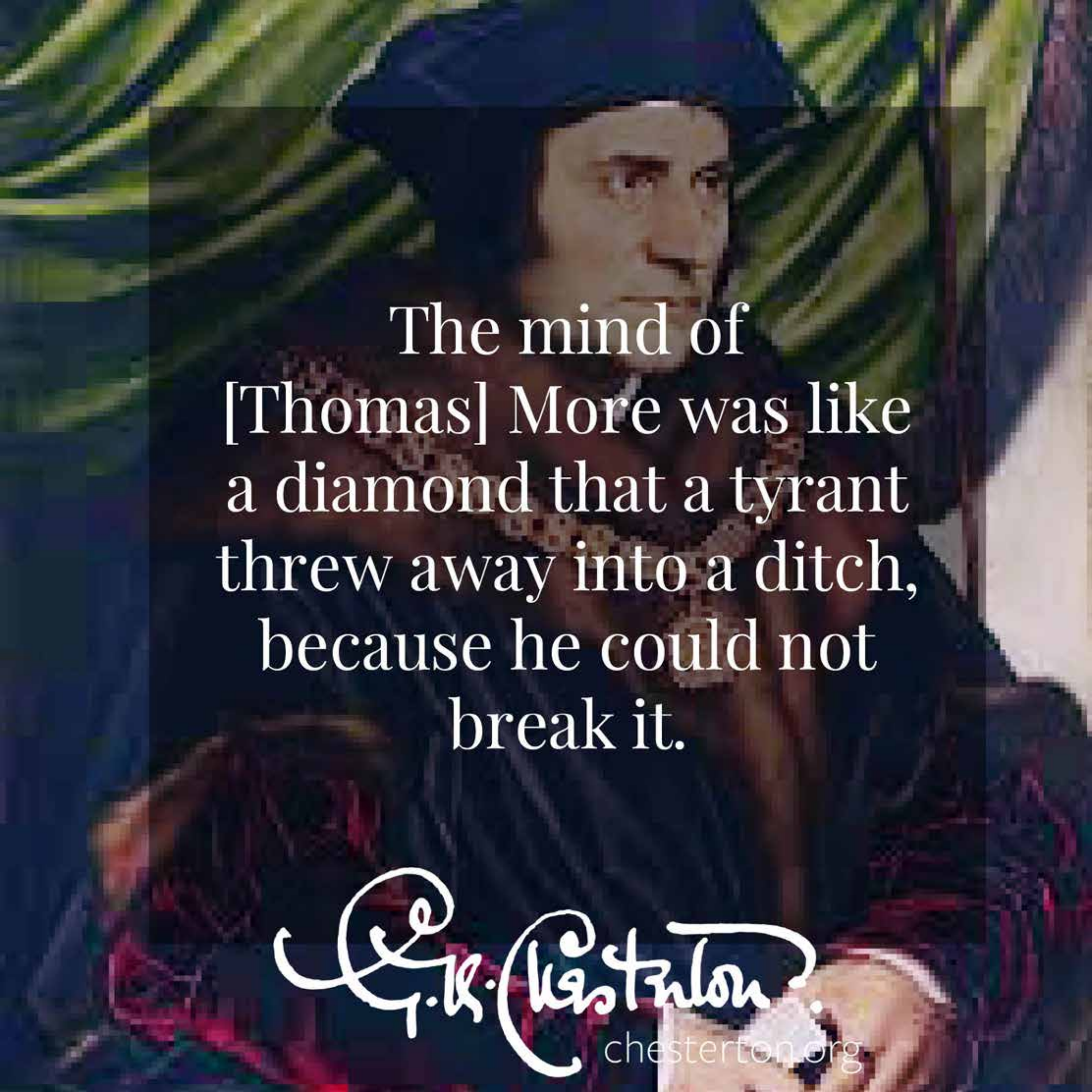
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The background of the image is a detailed view of a Gothic cathedral's ceiling. It features a complex network of dark stone ribs forming a star-like pattern. Between these ribs are numerous circular and polygonal stained glass windows. The glass is primarily a deep blue color, with some sections containing faint, colorful depictions of religious figures or scenes. The lighting is somewhat dim, highlighting the architectural details and the texture of the stone.

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

G.K. Chesterton?

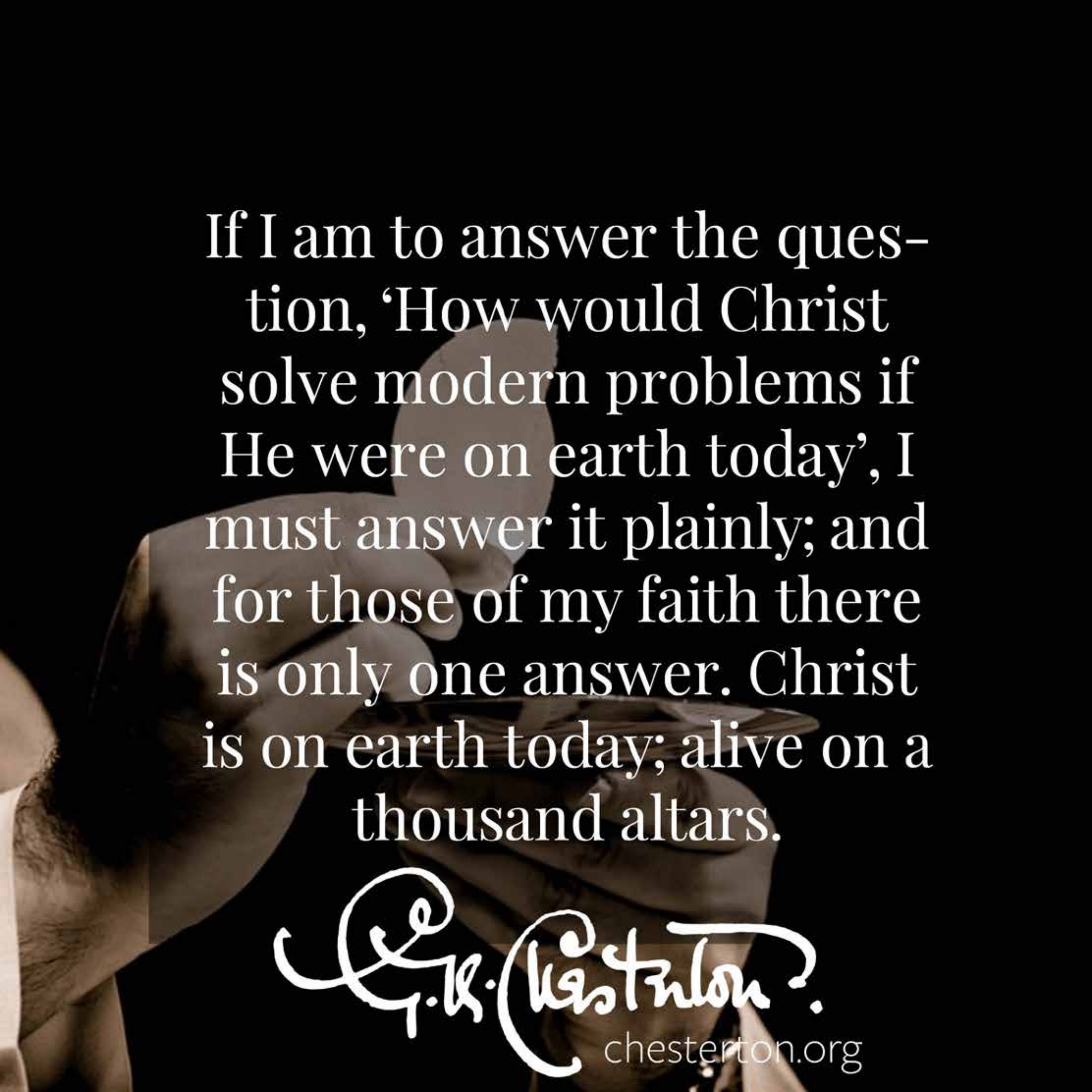
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The mind of
[Thomas] More was like
a diamond that a tyrant
threw away into a ditch,
because he could not
break it.

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.

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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?

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Strength is
the great weakness
of politicians.


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A top-down view of a wooden desk. In the upper left, a silver laptop is open, displaying a list of items on its screen. To its right is a white mug filled with dark coffee. Below the laptop, a yellow notepad and a black pen are visible. In the bottom right corner, a hand holds a newspaper, with the headline "• BACK FOLLOW YOUR MAKE IT HAPPY" partially visible. A semi-transparent dark rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the main text.

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

G.K. Chesterton.
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A glowing lightbulb sits on a wooden surface, casting a warm, golden light. The background is a dark, textured wood grain. The lightbulb is positioned on the right side of the image, with its glow illuminating the surrounding wood.

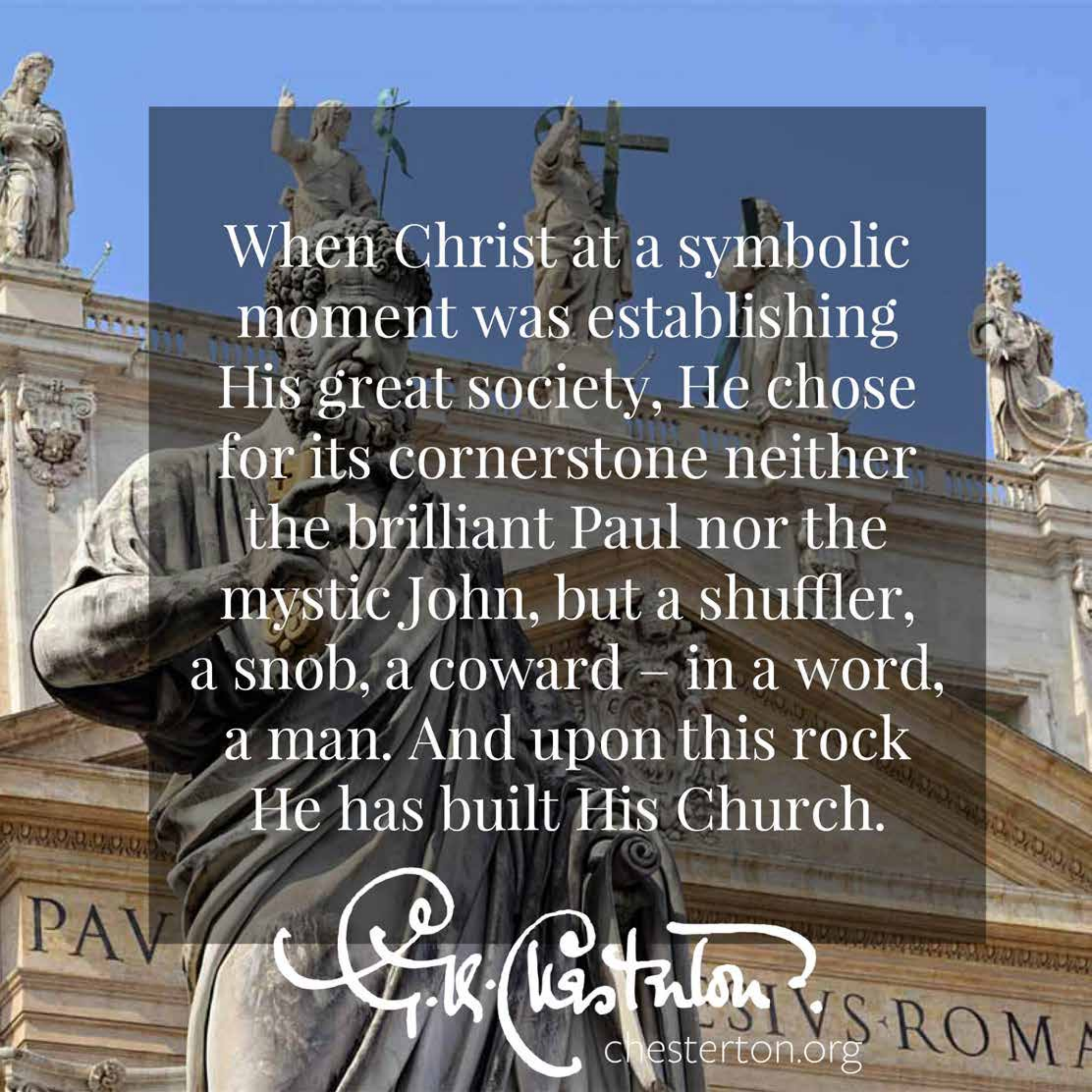
Before men analyze
the uses of the
unconscious mind,
it may, perhaps, be well
for them to discover the
use of the mind.

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

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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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A detailed stained glass window serves as the background. It features several figures: a central figure with long hair and a beard, wearing a red robe and holding a staff; a figure to the left with long hair and a beard, wearing a blue robe and holding a staff; and a figure to the right with long hair and a beard, wearing a blue robe and holding a staff. The figures are set against a background of blue, gold, and red glass. The text is overlaid on the central figure.

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

G.K. Chesterton.

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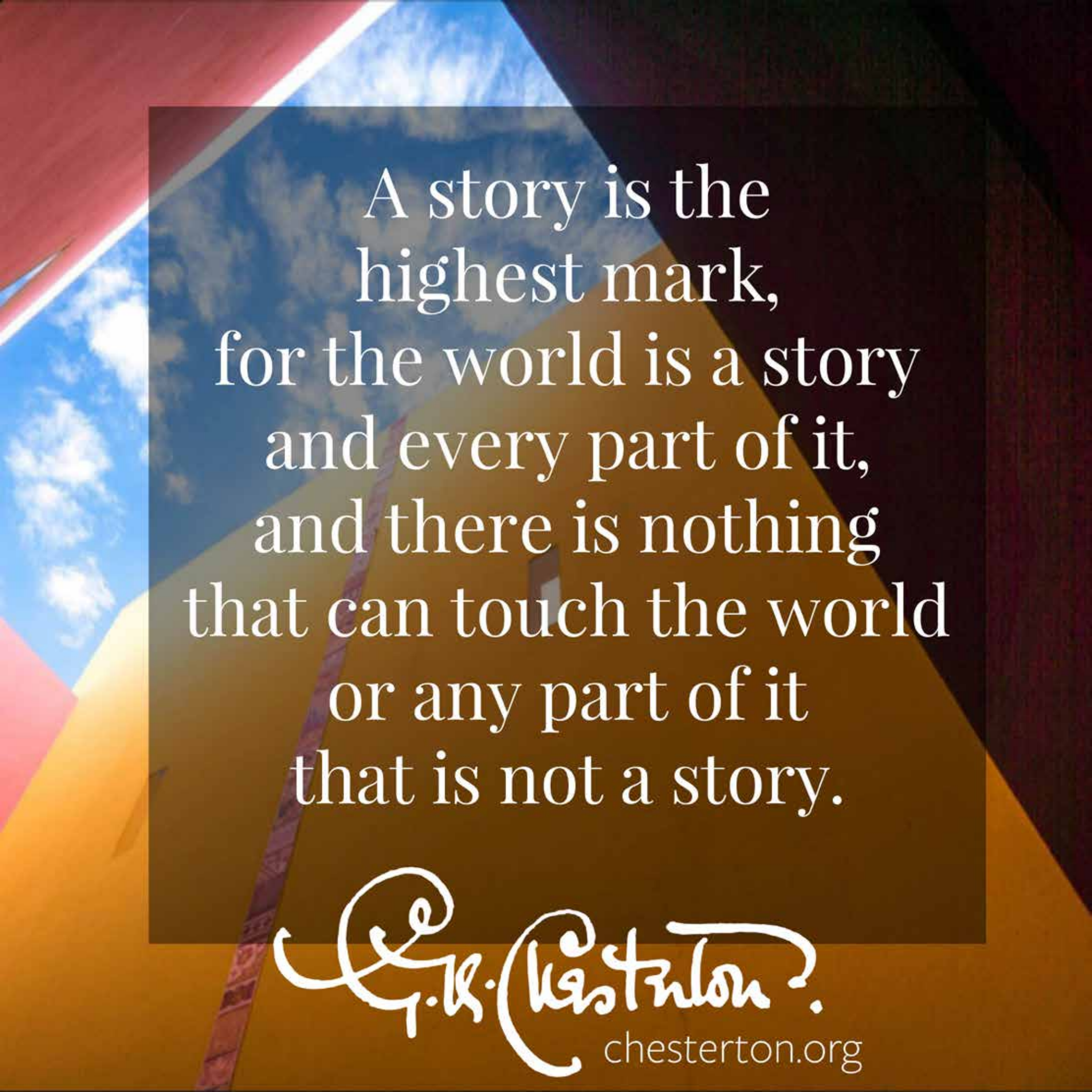
So many Socialists
simply try to collect
all the opinions that
have ever been called
humanitarian or
advanced, and try to
hold them all at once.

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


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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.

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


C. K. Chesterton

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A faded, grayscale image of the Statue of Liberty, showing the head, crown, and torch. The image is centered and serves as a background for the text.

The only object of
liberty is life.

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

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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.

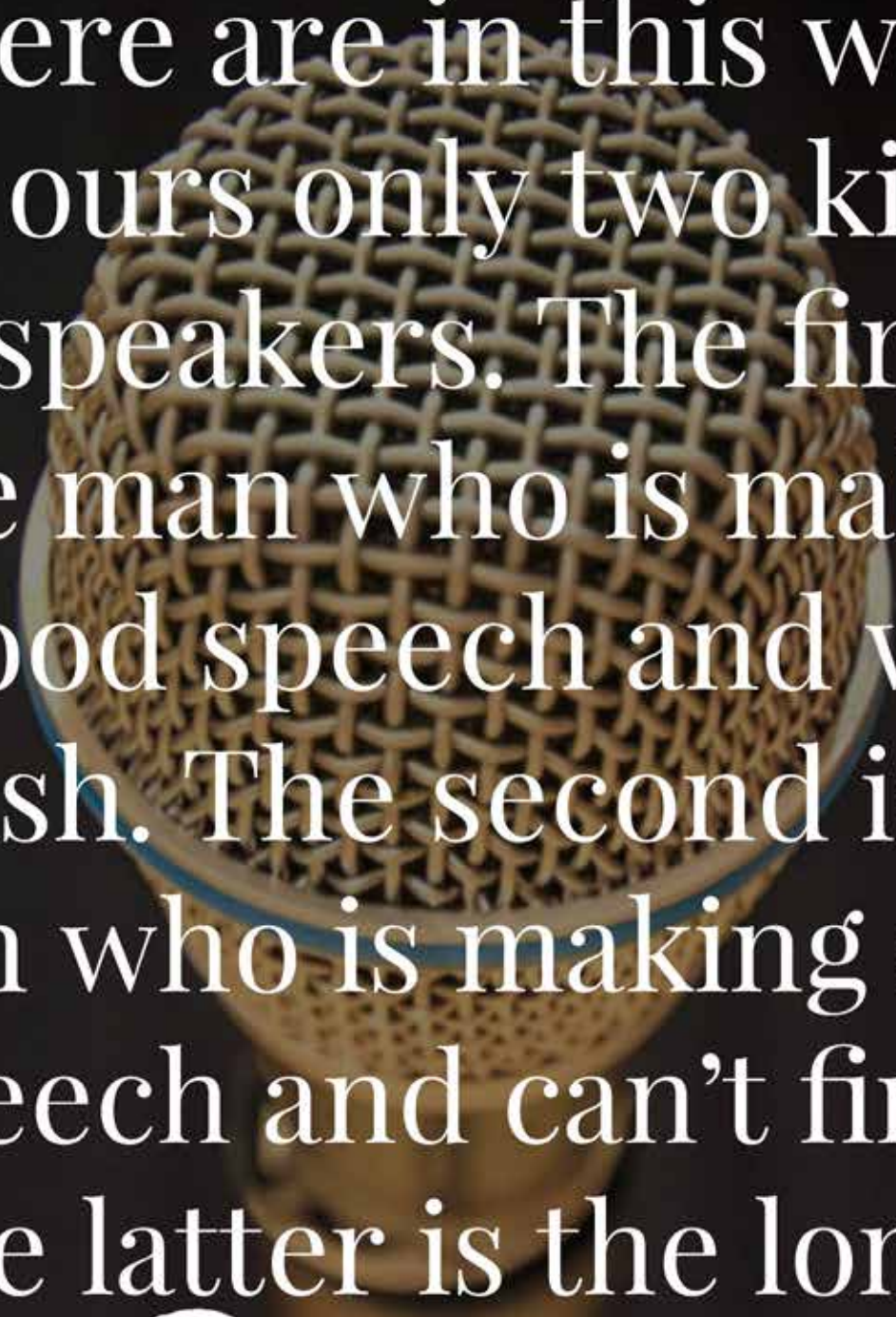
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A close-up photograph of a hand holding a pen, poised to write on a piece of paper. The word 'TRUTH' is already written on the paper in a dark, bold font. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the quote in white serif font.

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?

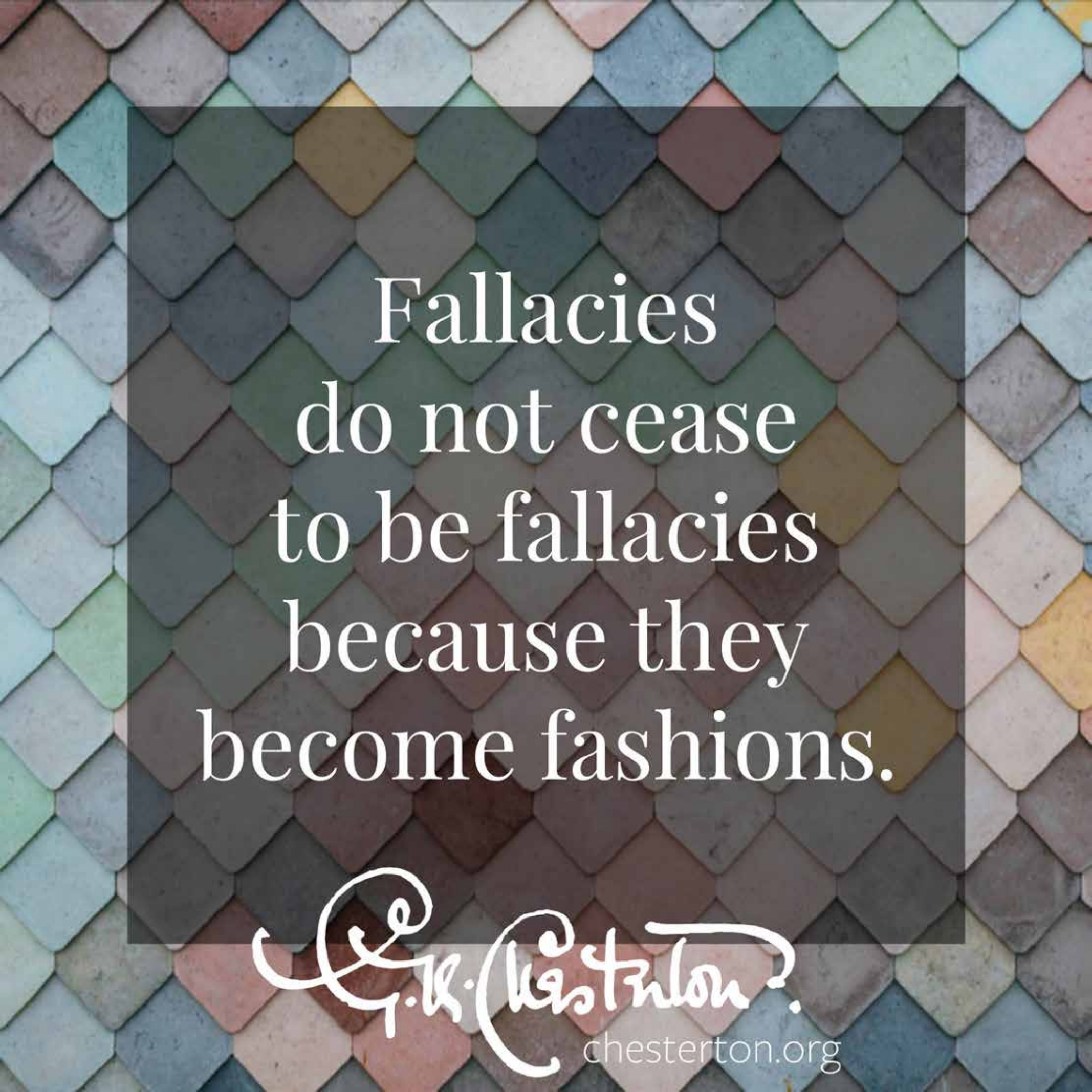
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We ourselves doubt
very much
whether the Devil
is as **white**
as he is painted.

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

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

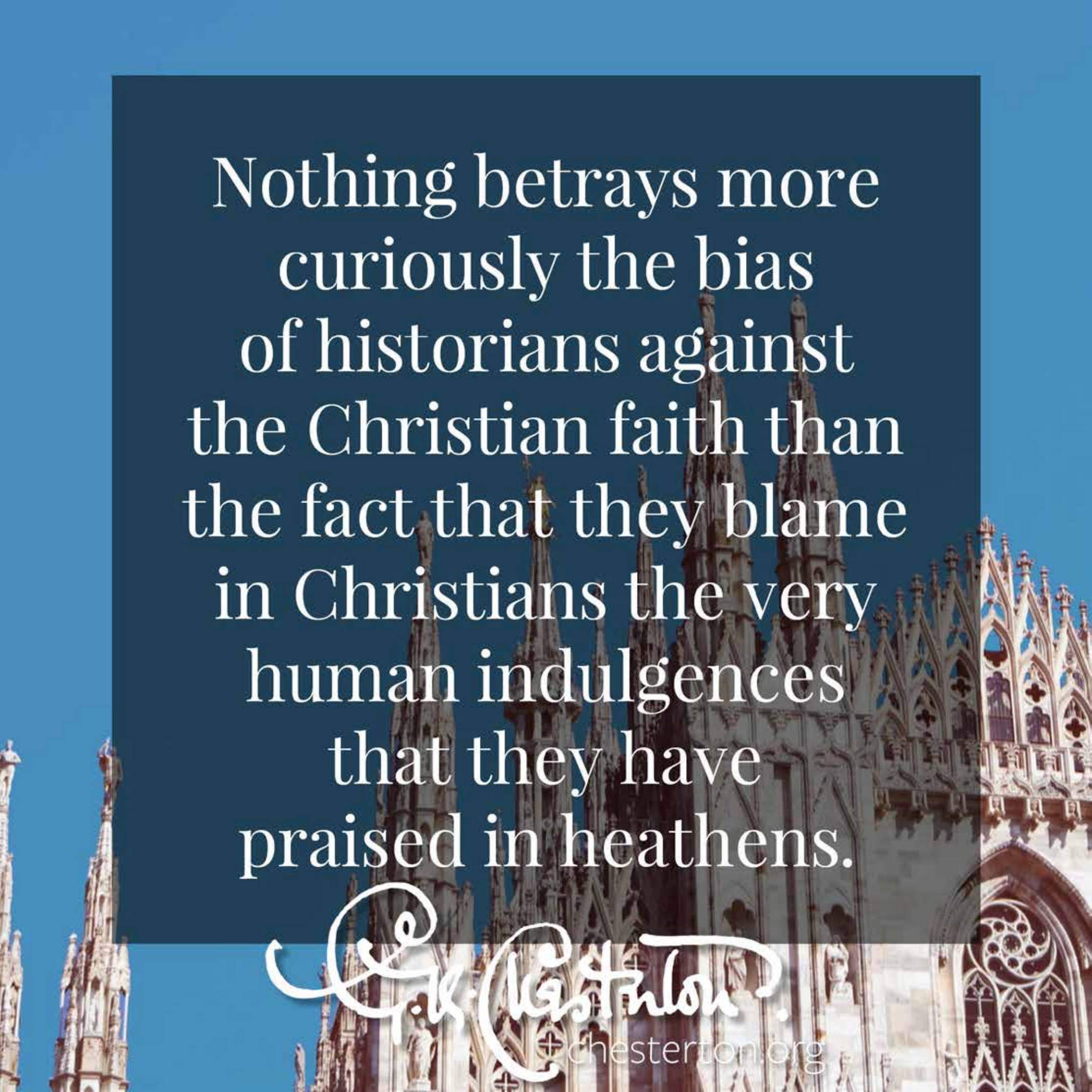
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Human beings,
while they cannot live
without some change
and some adventure,
also cannot live
without some privacy
and some protection.

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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.

Erasmus

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

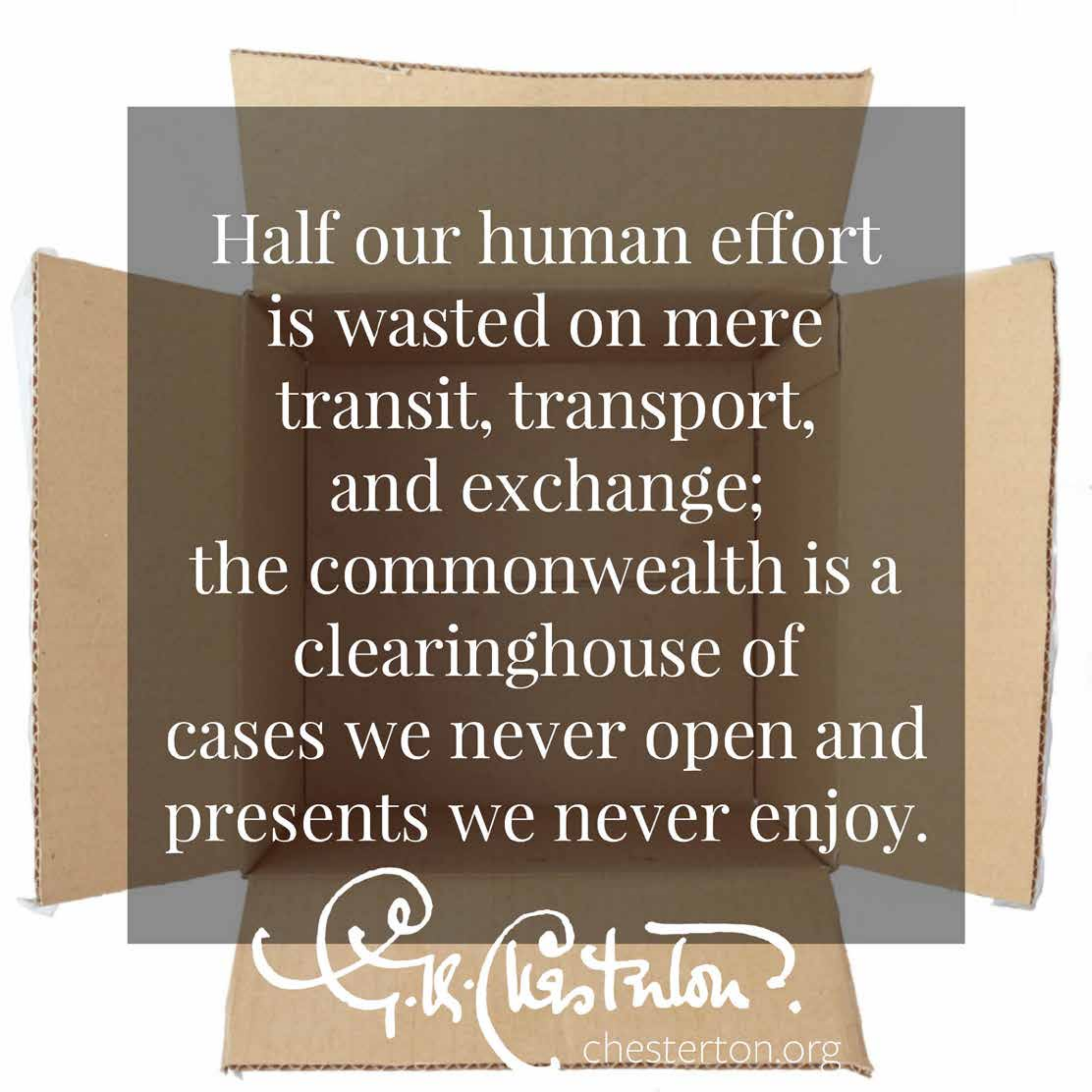
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The mass of the immoralists
never believed in immorality
or in anything else.

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.

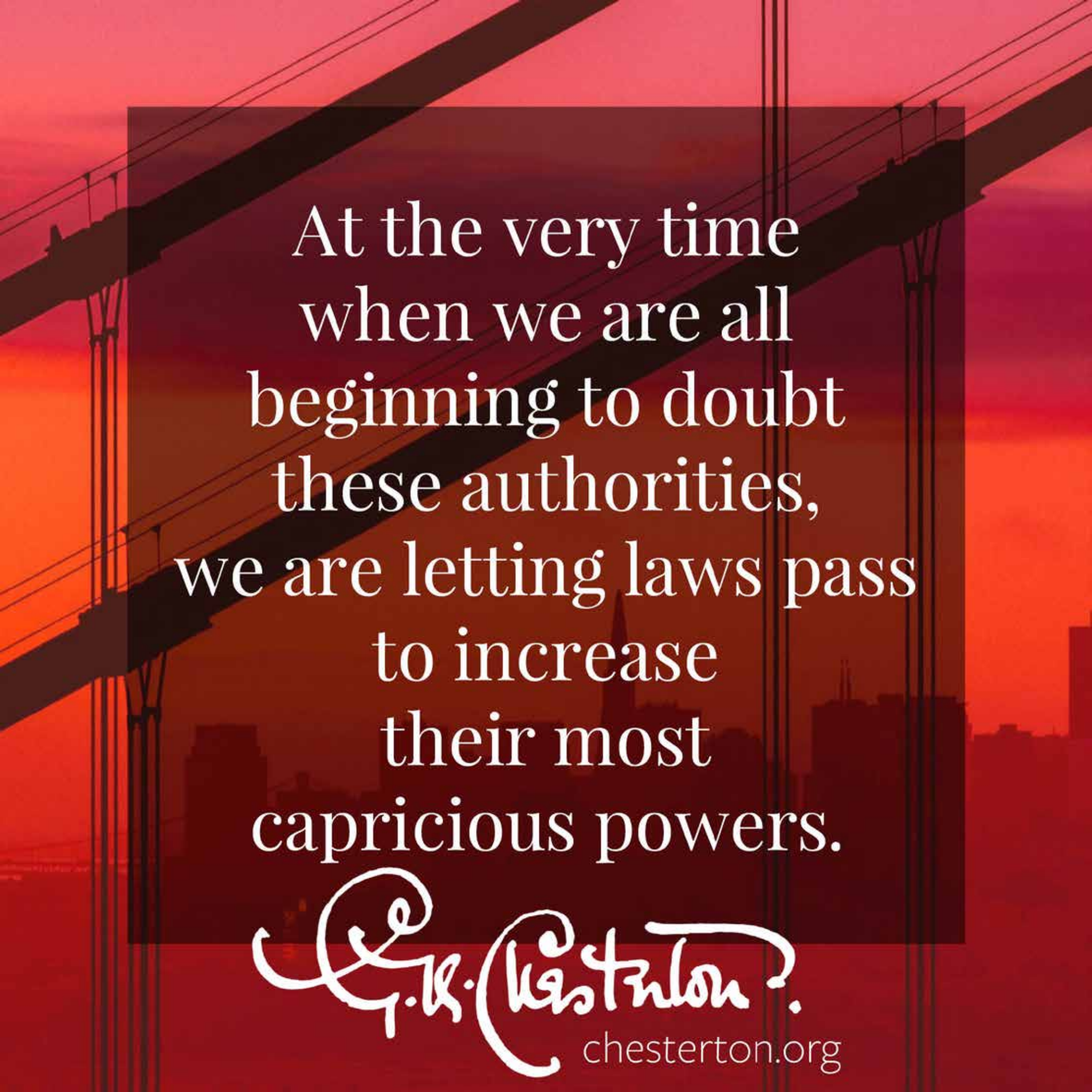
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Half our human effort
is wasted on mere
transit, transport,
and exchange;
the commonwealth is a
clearinghouse of
cases we never open and
presents we never enjoy.

G.K. Chesterton.

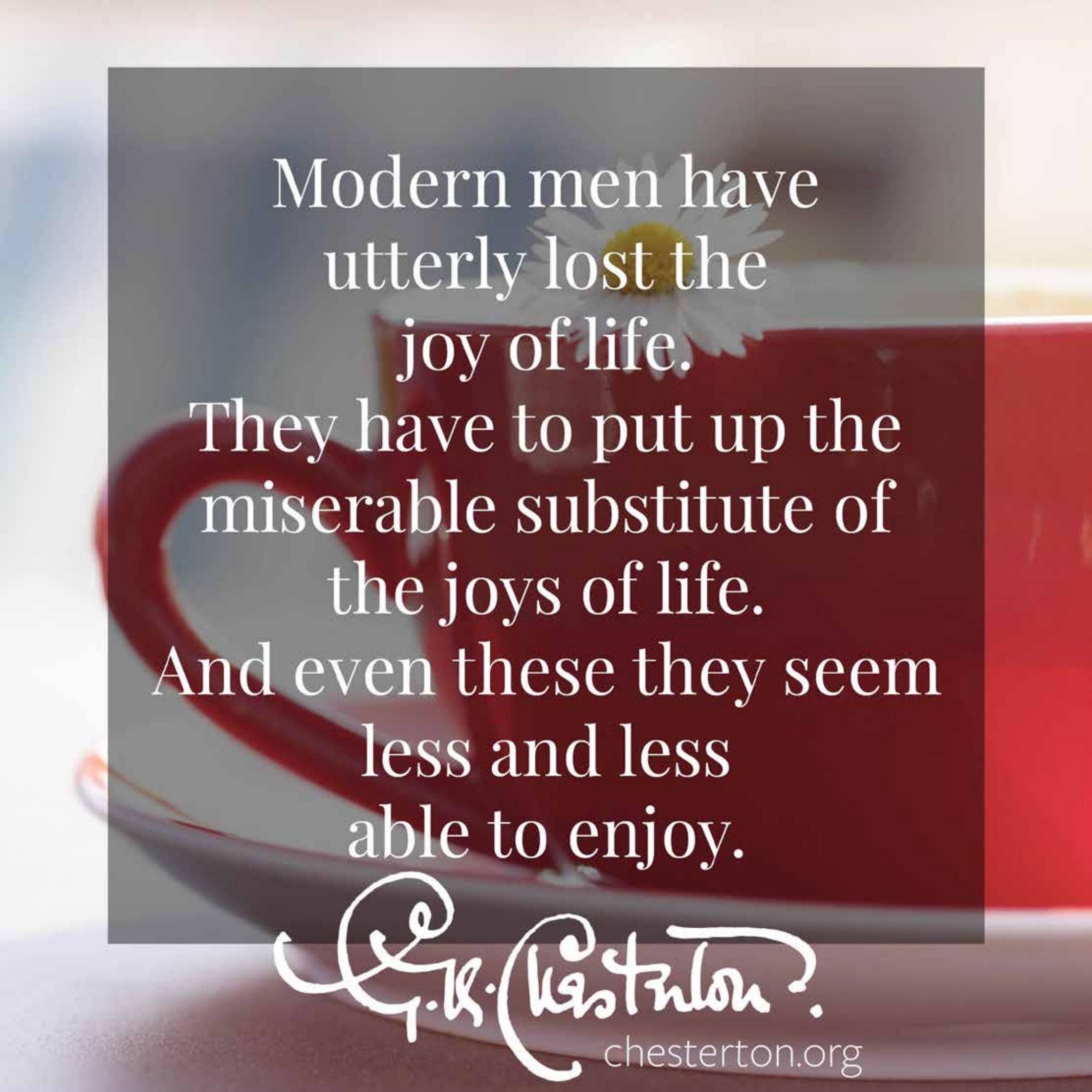
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At the very time
when we are all
beginning to doubt
these authorities,
we are letting laws pass
to increase
their most
capricious powers.

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A daisy flower with a yellow center and white petals is placed inside a red cup. The cup is on a white surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of white and light blue.

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.

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

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


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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.

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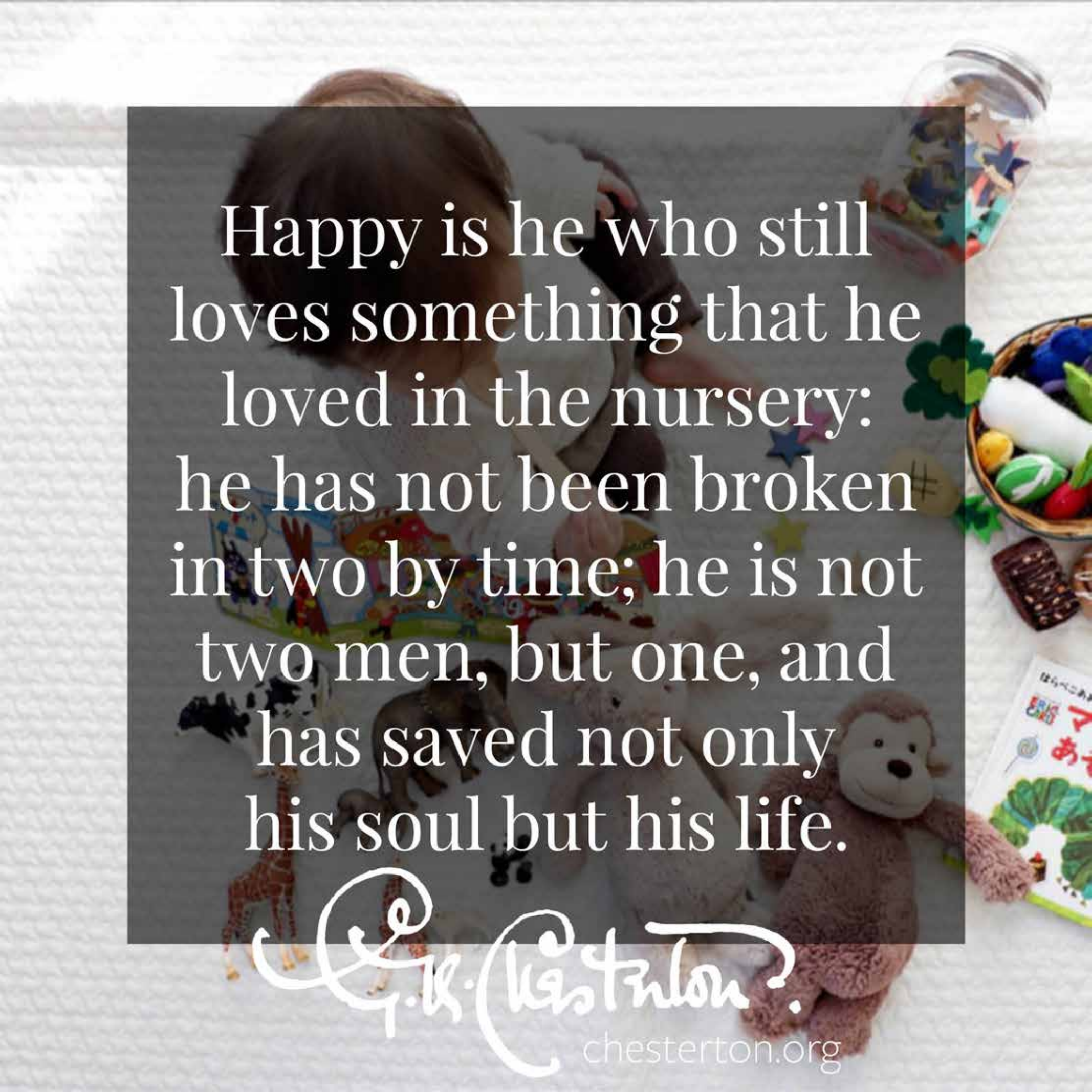
A row of colorful pencils (blue, green, yellow, red, orange, brown) lies diagonally across a white grid background. The pencils are slightly out of focus, creating a soft, artistic feel.

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.

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A child with brown hair is seen from behind, sitting on a white surface and playing with various toys. The toys include a clear jar filled with colorful star-shaped objects, a small basket of colorful items, a book with a green cover, and several stuffed animals like a giraffe, an elephant, and a monkey. The child is holding a small object in their hands.

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.

G.K. Chesterton?


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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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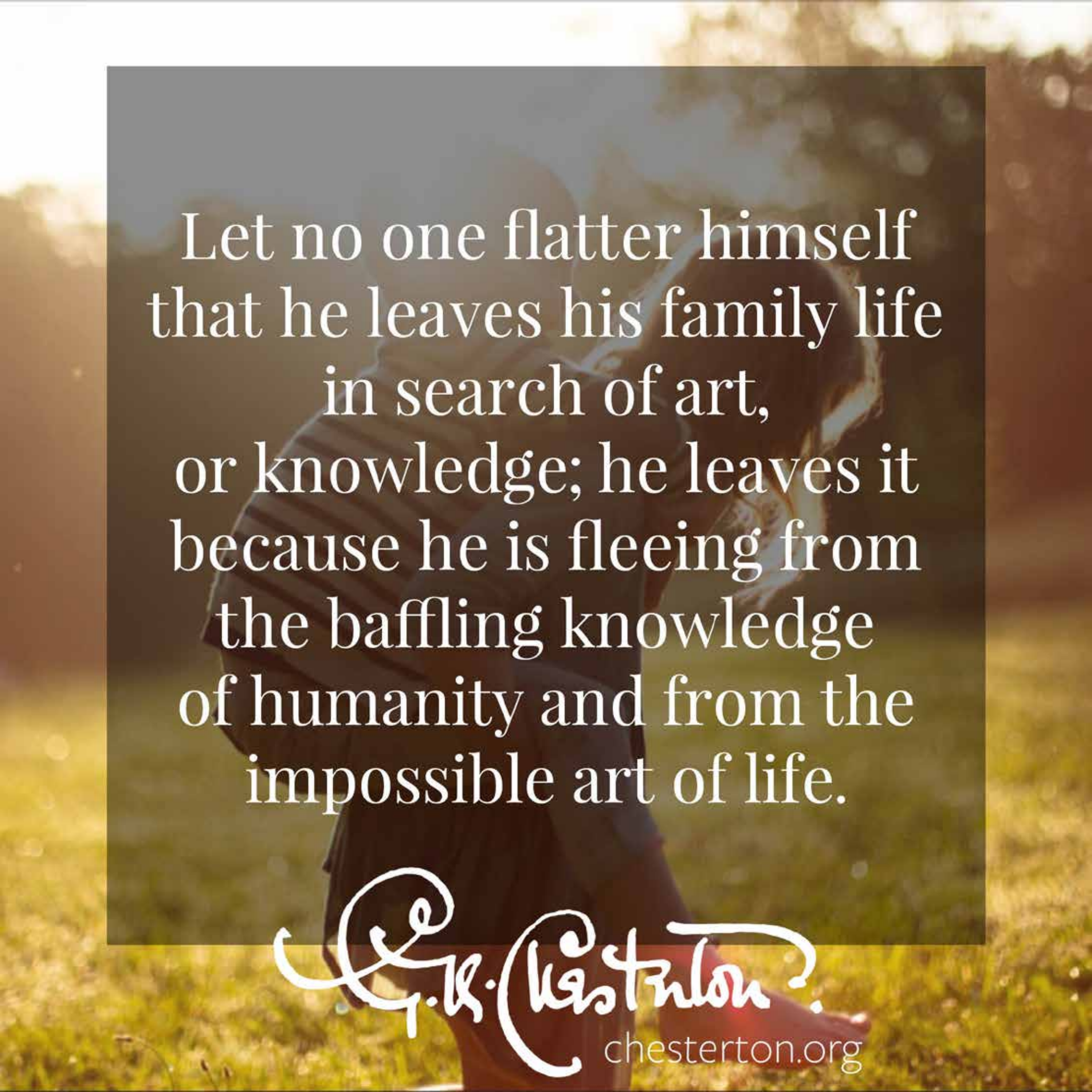


A sunset scene with silhouettes of people on a beach. The sun is a large, bright orange-yellow circle on the right side of the horizon. The sky is a gradient of orange and red. In the foreground, several people are silhouetted against the bright background. There are five adults and one child, all facing away from the camera and looking out at the ocean. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

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

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A person is seen from behind, standing in a grassy field during sunset. The person is wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The background is a warm, golden glow from the setting sun, with silhouettes of trees in the distance. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

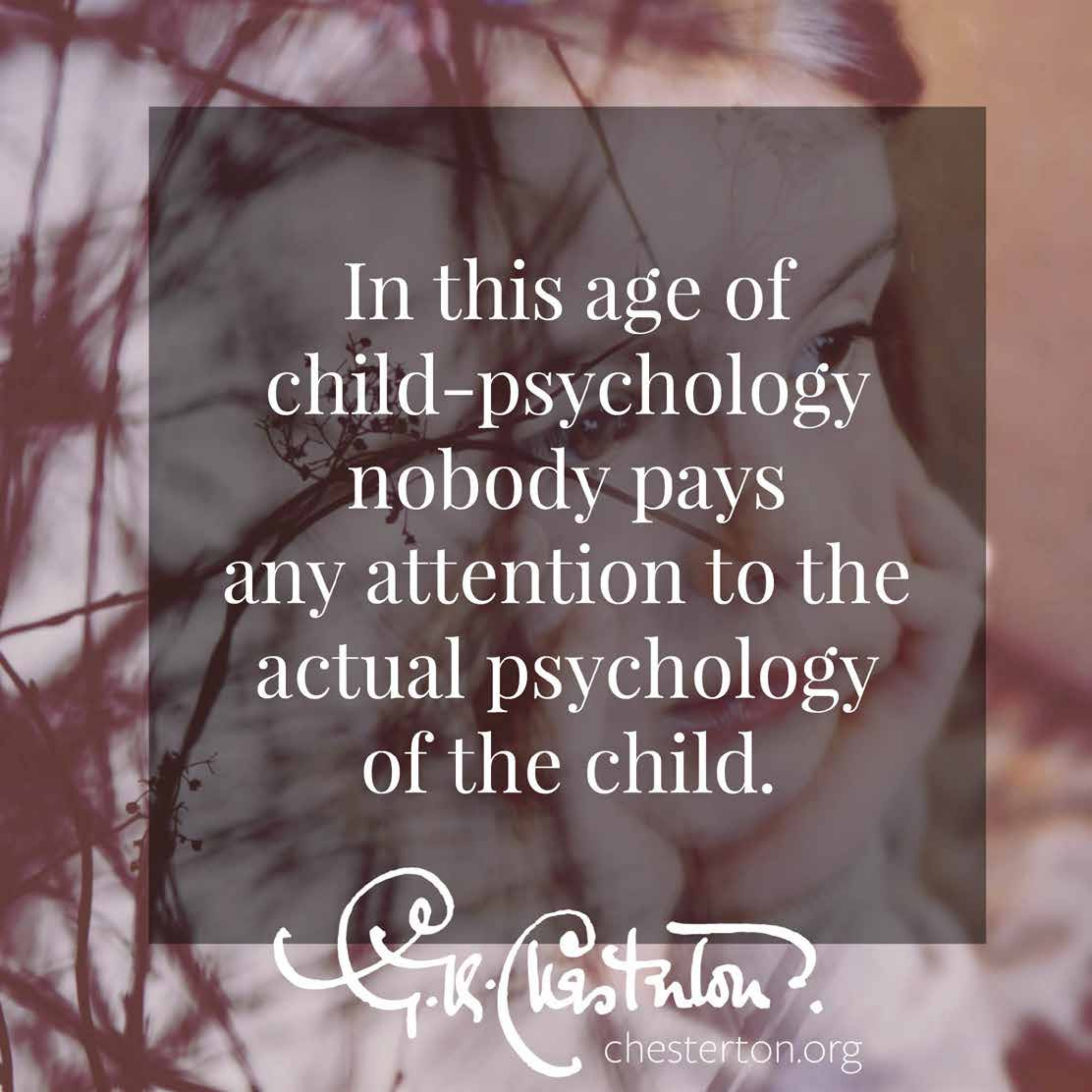
Let no one flatter himself
that he leaves his family life
in search of art,
or knowledge; he leaves it
because he is fleeing from
the baffling knowledge
of humanity and from the
impossible art of life.

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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.

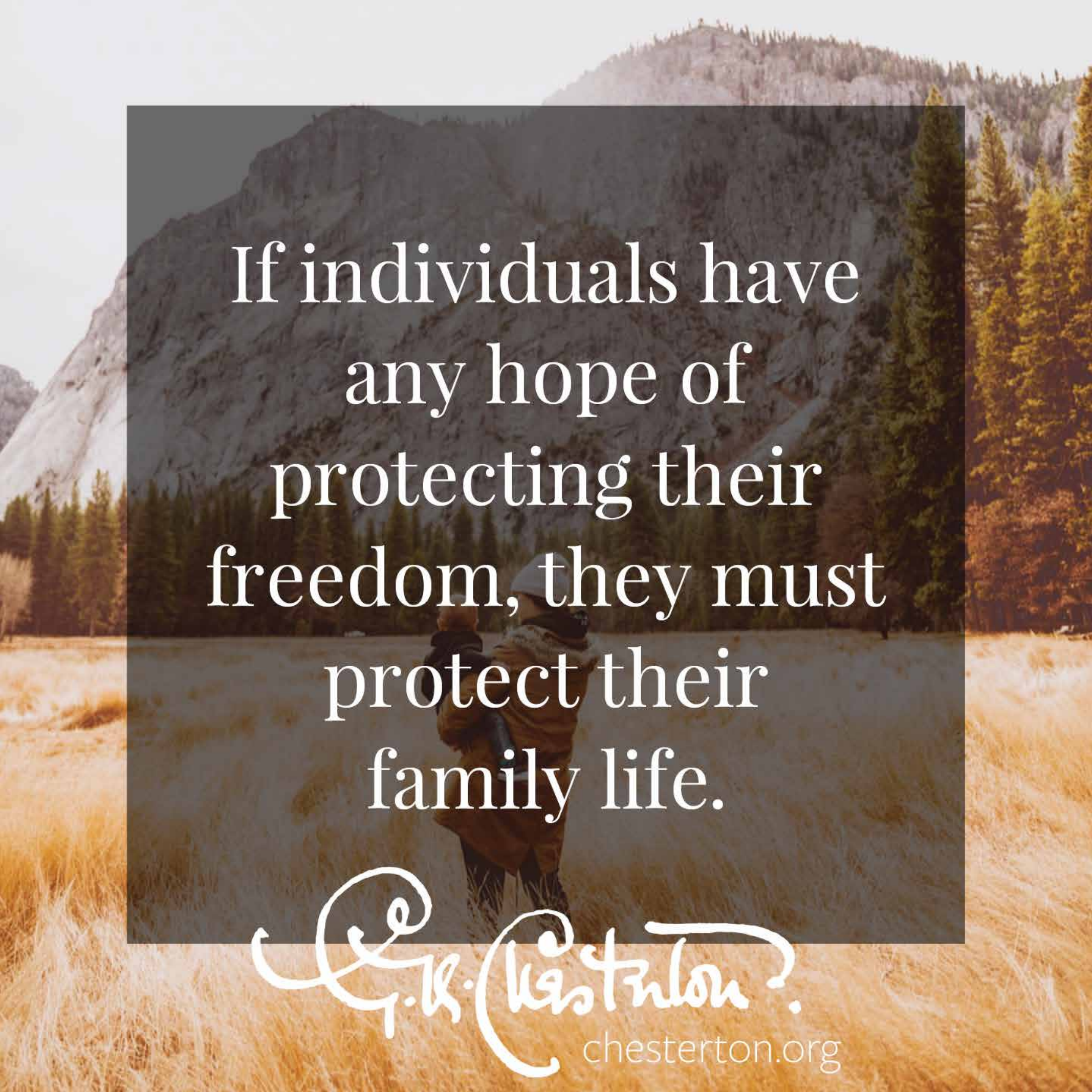
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In this age of
child-psychology
nobody pays
any attention to the
actual psychology
of the child.

G.K. Chesterton?

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A person wearing a hat and a backpack is seen from behind, walking through a field of tall, dry grass. In the background, there are dense evergreen trees and a large, rocky mountain peak under a clear sky. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

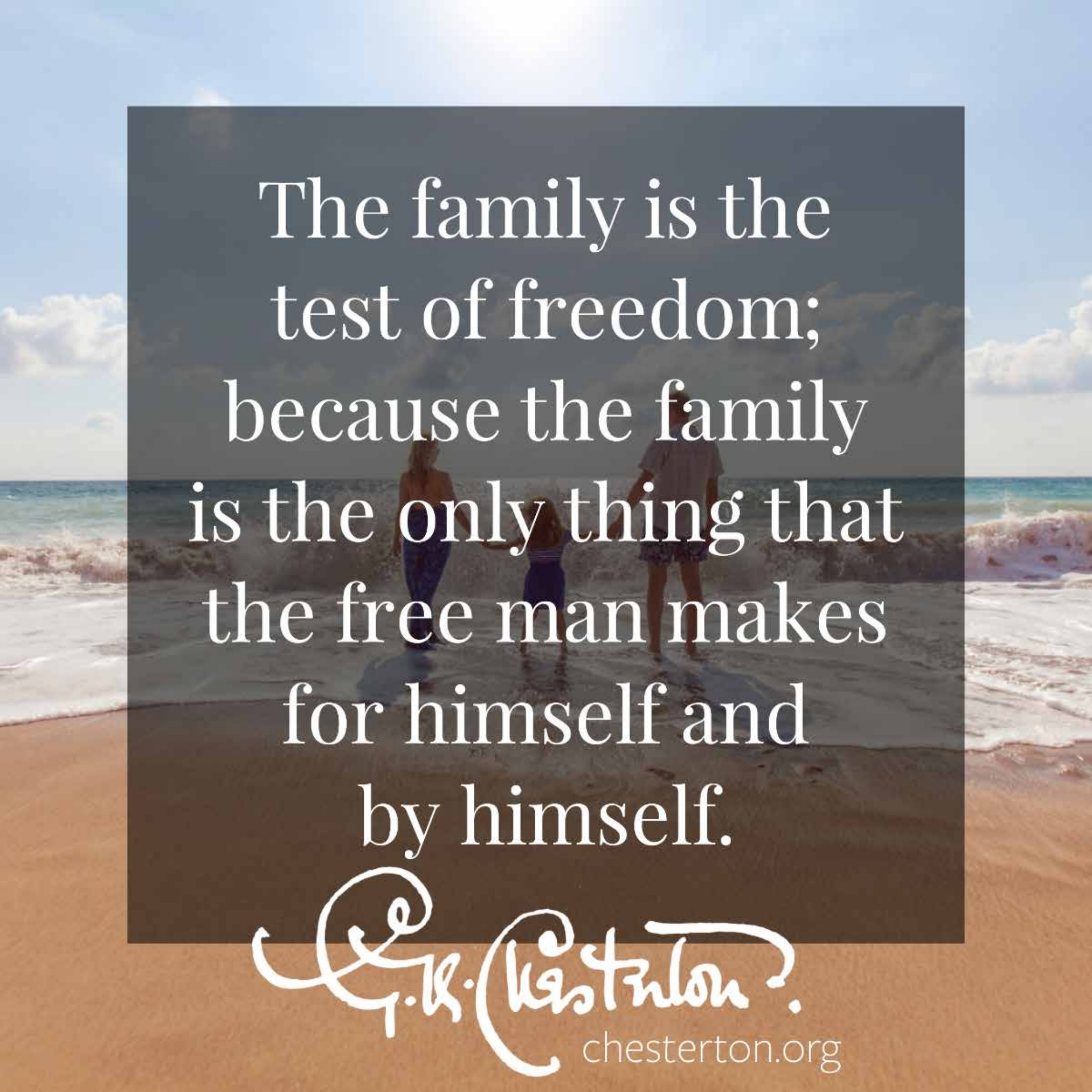
If individuals have
any hope of
protecting their
freedom, they must
protect their
family life.

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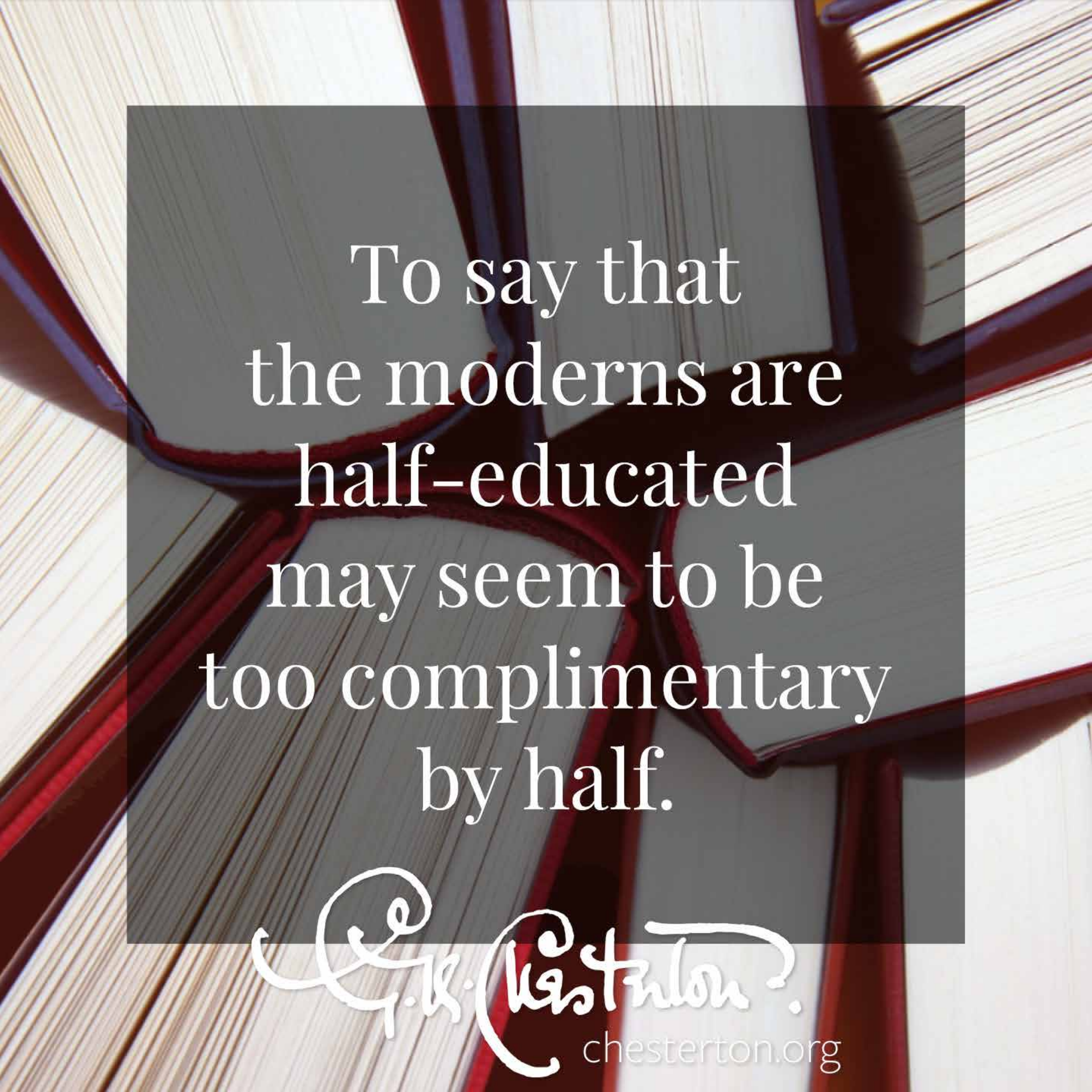
Little children
ought to learn
nothing but legends;
they are the
beginnings of all
sound morals and
manners.

G.K. Chesterton.
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A family of three, a man, a woman, and a young child, are walking away from the camera on a sandy beach. They are holding hands and walking towards the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The water is a deep blue, and the waves are gently lapping at the shore. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

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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The background of the image is a close-up, high-angle shot of an open book. The pages are a light cream color, and the binding is a deep red. A red ribbon bookmark is visible, looping through the pages. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark grey rectangular area in the center of the image.

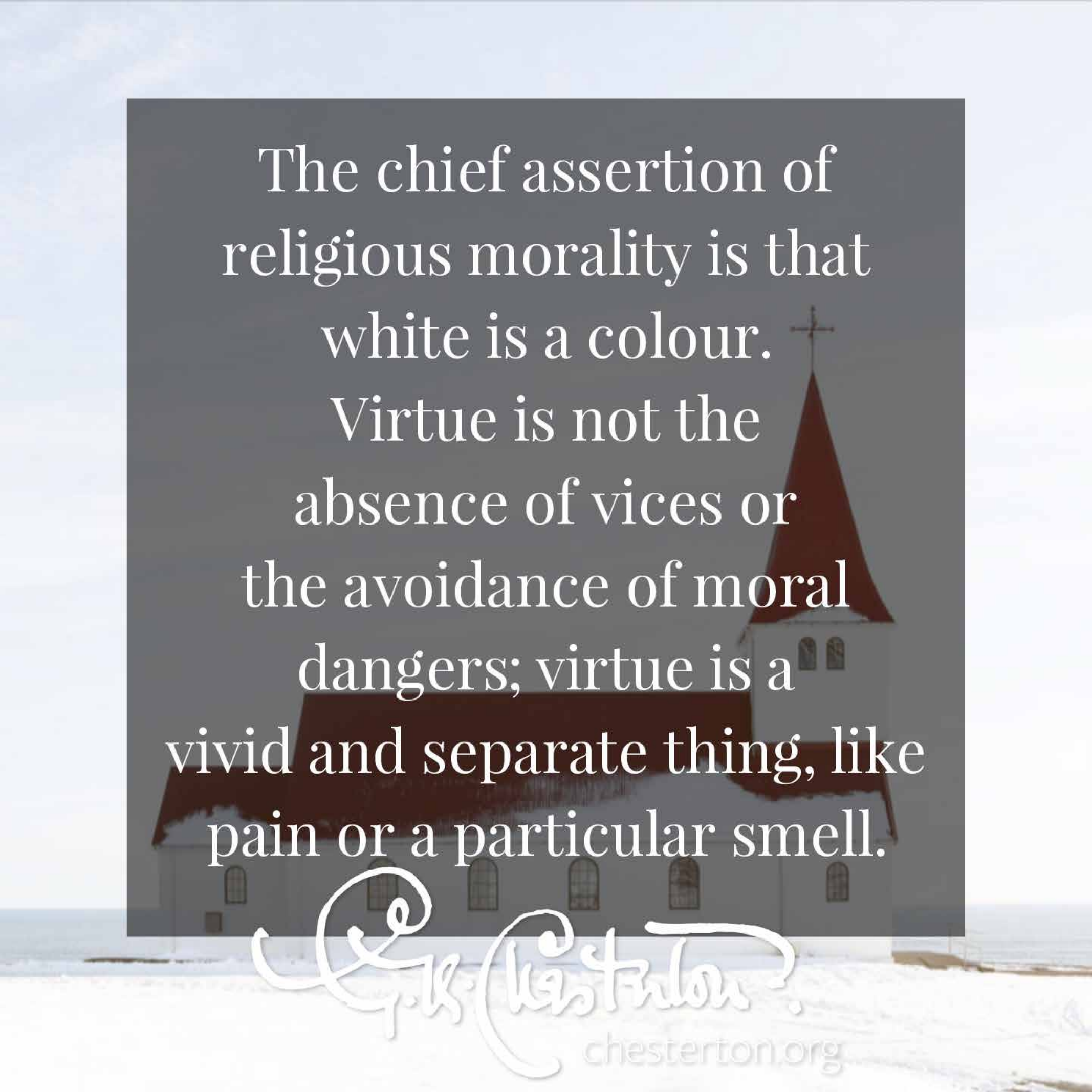
To say that
the moderns are
half-educated
may seem to be
too complimentary
by half.

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

G.K. Chesterton


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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.

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

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

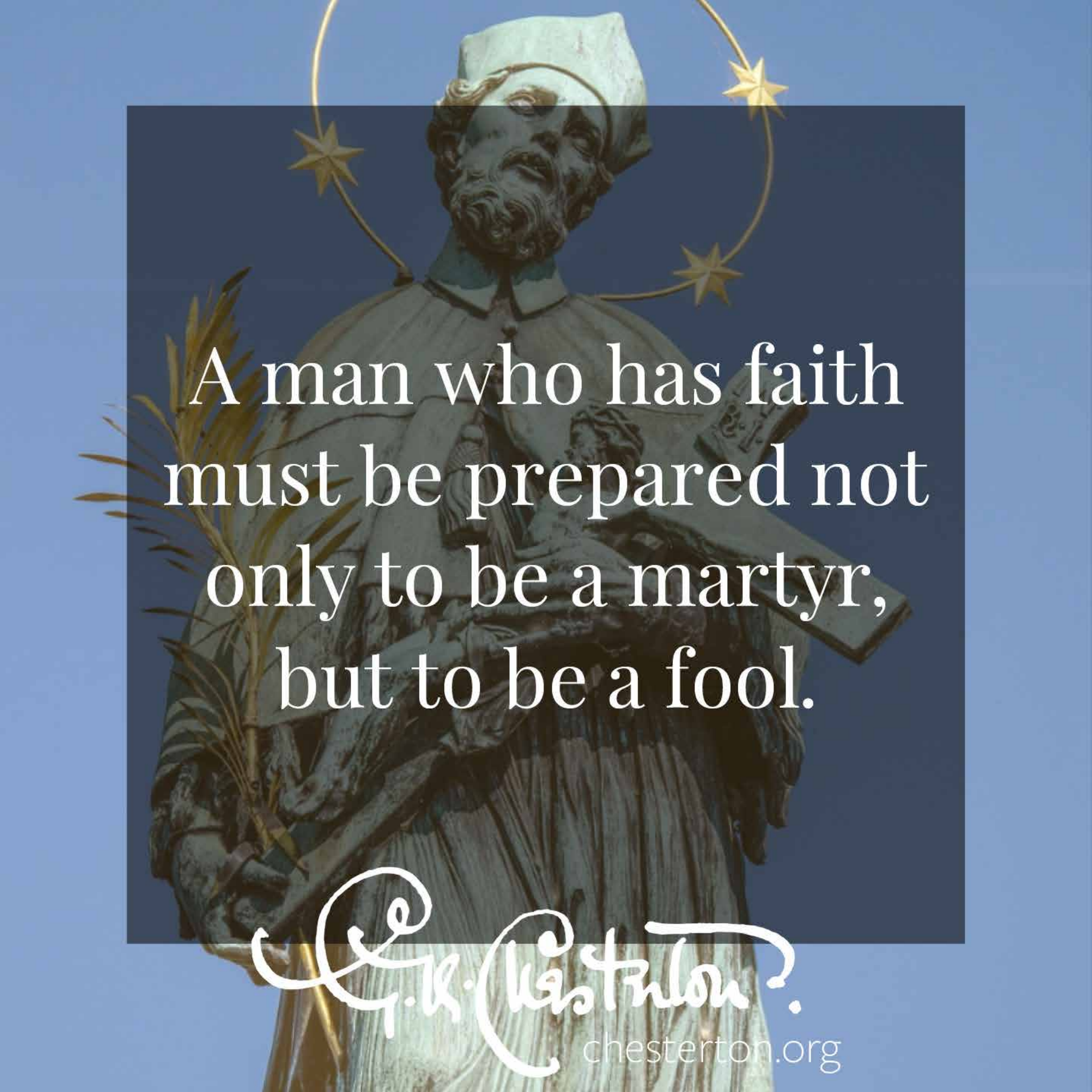
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The permanent
human temptation
is the temptation
to be mean.

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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.

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

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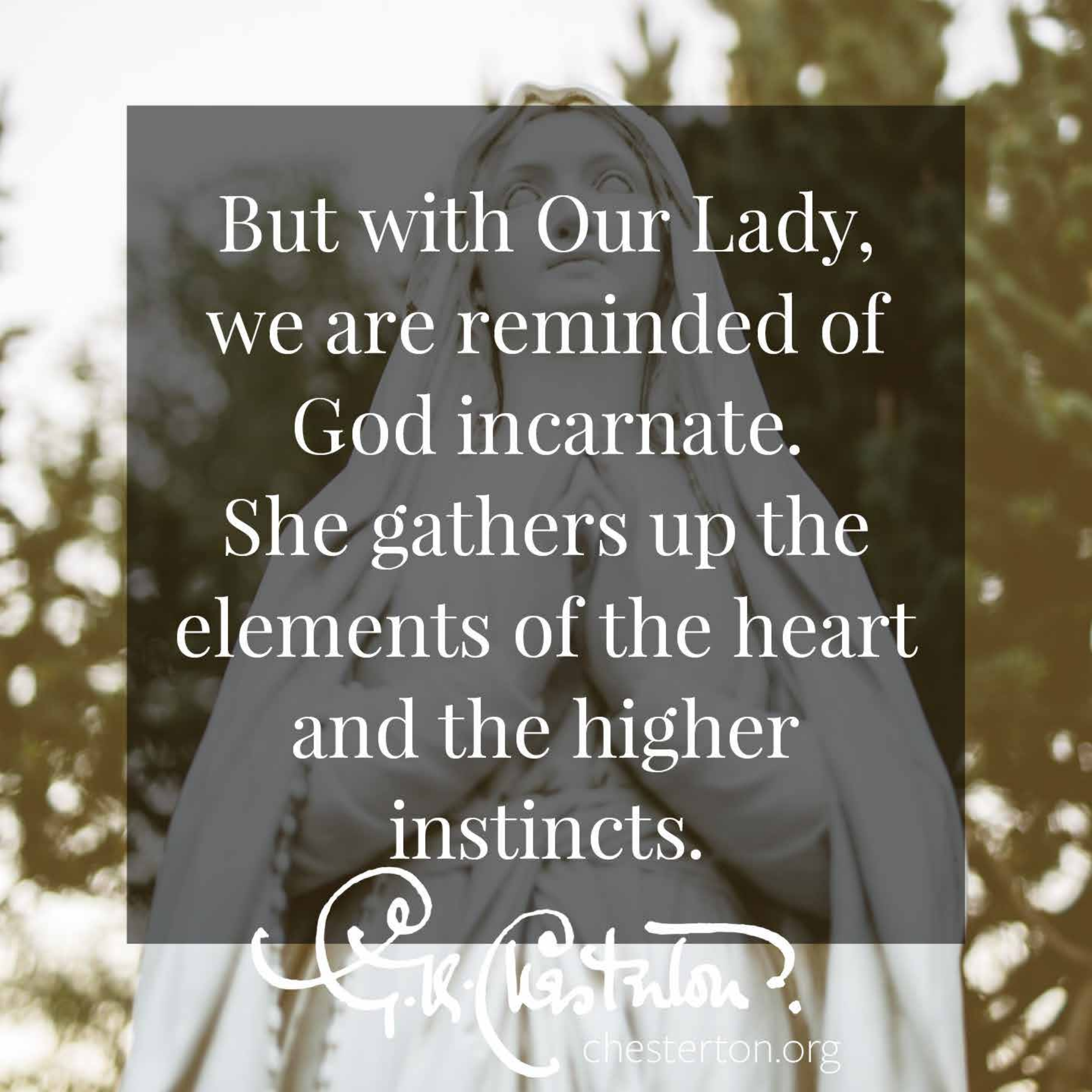
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There is an atmosphere
of compromise
everywhere at
the present instant, and
of what always
goes with compromise
– secrecy.

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A light touch is
the mark of strength.

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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.

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No one can be
really hilarious but
the serious man.

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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.

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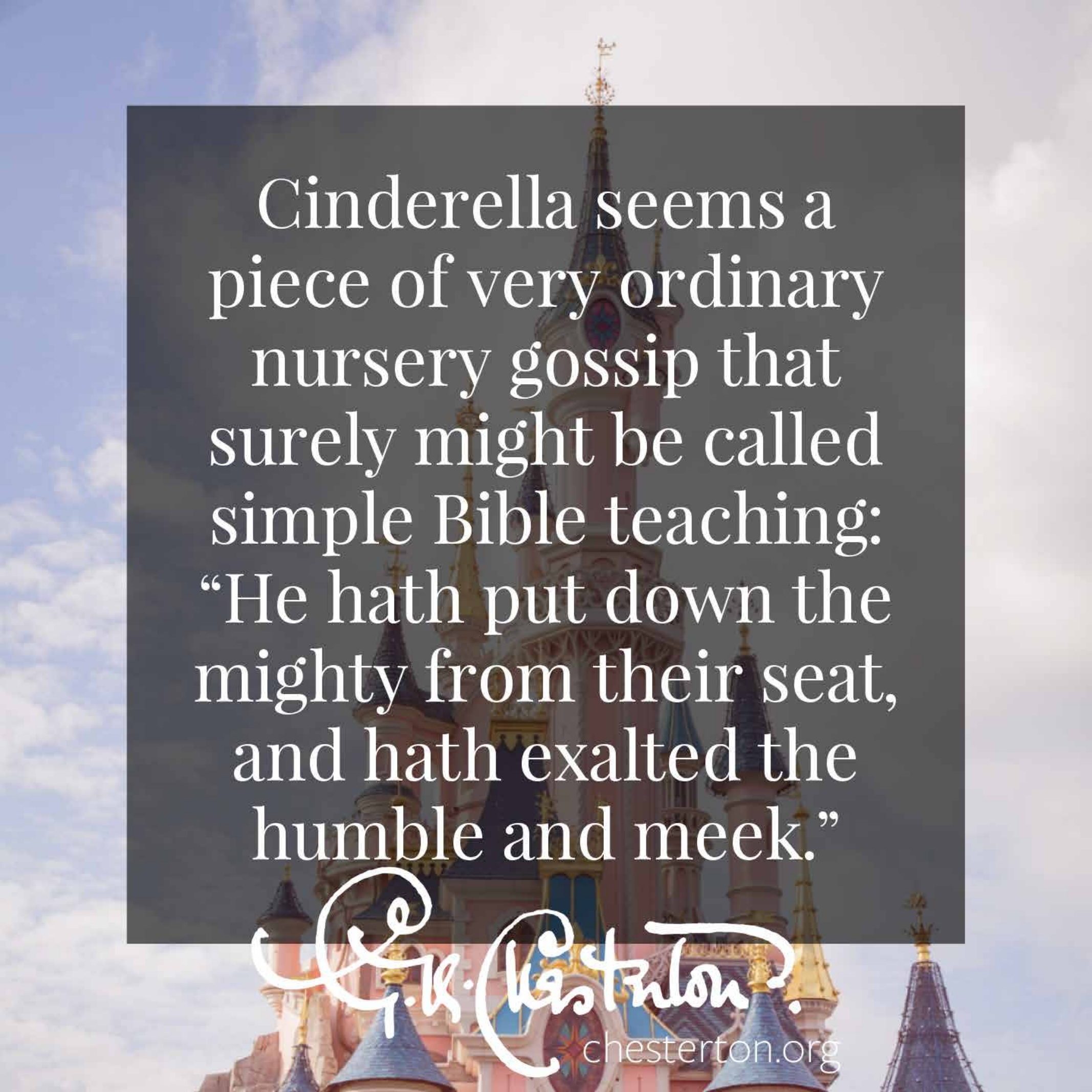
What is now called
free thought is
valued, not because
it is free thought, but
because it is freedom
from thought.

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.

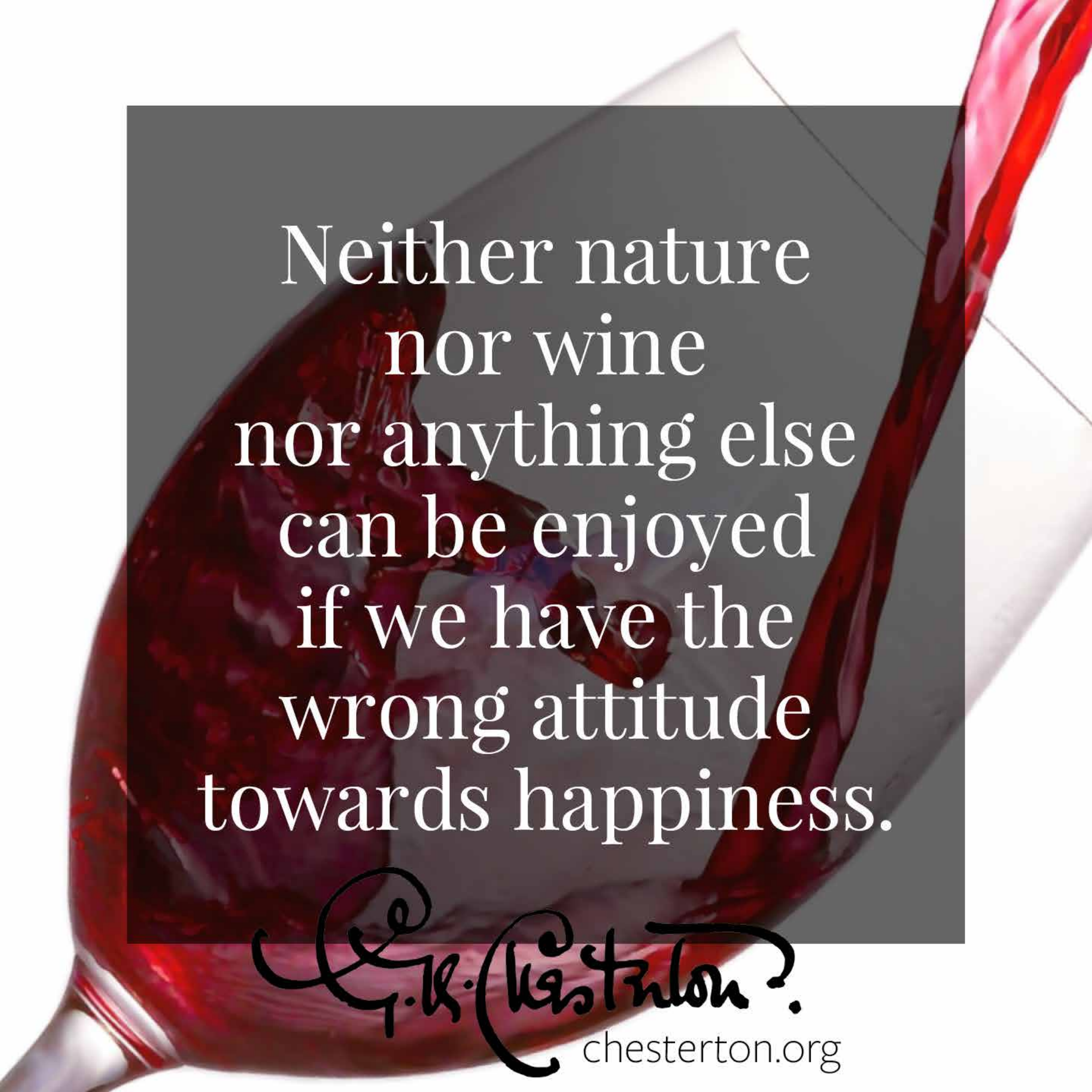
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Cinderella seems a
piece of very ordinary
nursery gossip that
surely might be called
simple Bible teaching:
“He hath put down the
mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the
humble and meek.”

G.K. Chesterton

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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.
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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.

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

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

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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.

G.K. 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.

G.K. Chesterton.

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

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