

Excerpts from Preaching and Practice (of Socialism)

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Socialism is not an individualistic ethical theory primarily designed for the direct reform of the private character of the individual. It is, primarily at least, an economic theory of the evolution and transformation of society.

Introspective morality is antagonistic to the spirit of socialism. The emphasis of the moral tendency of socialism is not on the individual as an end but on society as an end. Socialism stresses training of "comrade" to act in consort for the attainment of definite and unmistakable social end.

Self-sacrifice is not a virtue at all per se, but undoubtedly is the ultimate standard or test of all moral actions.

The socialist is always preaching that the present condition of the proletariat is undesirable and unworthy of a human being.

The profession of socialism, at the very most, does not lay a man under any special obligation to perform acts of charity over and above that of the ordinary man of average humane feeling.

Socialists preach "social revolution" i.e. the entire transformation of society and working for the social transformation of society to the best of his ability.

Socialists want to secure for all the reward of their work by changing the existing condition.

Only when we have changed the existing conditions, and secured for all the reward of their work, then and not till then shall we be able to practice what we preach.

The "man in the street" asks not the reason why but blindly follows the tradition he has partly inherited and partly acquired, for him asceticism is part of the highest ideal to which human nature can attain.

Socialism certainly does not set up as its ideal the suppression of self any more than the exaltation of self over others. Socialism means ethically not the perennial sacrifices of self, but its realization

in and through society – not repression of the individual but his fulfillment.

In Defense of Socialism

The above quotes are very pertinent for understanding the spirit of socialism.