

Kenosha, WI 53142  
November 25, 1996

Mr. Brian Lamb  
c/o C-Span  
400 North Capitol Street NW #650  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb,

During the last segment of your call-in show today, a woman kept emphasizing that "power corrupts". One of her final statements was that anyone with power will become corrupt -- even people who have power over animals and children will use that power if they can. She said even she, herself, having this power would use it.

Although she is right about power corrupting, she is wrong when she states that all people are corrupted by power. There are still people on the face of this Earth that do not take advantage of others by misusing their authority. Only people who have a meager sense of personal power and/or an external sense of power, who live in fear of losing the little they have, when placed in a position of authority (or perceive that they are in a position of power), will use this power unwisely. I can understand her believing her statement, because corruption of power is highly visible. The reason being that many people who are in positions to run the show (politicians, bosses, clergy), do work from lower levels of consciousness and their belief in external power is what unknowingly motivated them to go into their line of work in the first place and fear of losing it, in turn, makes them misuse their power.

The results of using power unjustly causes much suffering for the people that are the victims of these foolishly motivated people. Even in daily family life, sibling and in-law trouble is generally caused by someone's feelings of a lack of self-worth, fear of losing, jealousy and envy. Rather than lifting themselves up in positive ways, like vultures they tear others apart with cruelty or like petty tyrants impose their will onto them. For example many women feel powerless. This is so common a problem for women that there has long ago been coined a word used to describe some women's behavior towards other women: cattiness. I have been taken aback many times by some of the foolish, childish, totally out-of-left-field remarks that other women have said to me. In contrast to these women, one of the most powerful women in this world is Sister Teresa and she has no external wealth and power, she has internal power and this type of power cannot ever be lost or stolen. Many Buddhist monks live out of this same power, as too can a street-person -- the poorest of the poor.

O. W. Spier

As long as so many humans still live in the lower levels of consciousness (the animal levels), there will be those who hurt and those who are hurt. I really wish everyone could be happy with who they are and to live and let live. Peace and happiness does and can only originate out of each individual. But this is made more possible when society can help this by ensuring that people's basic needs are being met. Most important, is the need for decent employment which will give people the ability to provide the basic comforts in life: food, shelter, clothing. A feeling of personal safety from harm (be it from a spouse, parent, or a stranger) is also something important which society can nurture. Then higher aspirations and behavior will naturally come into being.

This is way too involved a subject. Sorry I even brought it up. The presidential candidate, John Hagelin, would be able to speak to this subject better than I.

