

This element of truth is part of what we call **tone** in writing. If we write in order to startle the reader by some false alarm; or jolt him by a sensational trick; or bluff him; or flatter him; or talk down to him; or insult his intelligence, then the tone is false, truth suffers, and the whole work crumbles.

Lastly, a slave or fascist mentality violates truth, and cannot produce literature worth thinking about, because of its attitude to the reader, i.e. its bad tone.

All of us who have a slave mentality are apt to accept others' ideas without question; to make stock responses to what we read, hear or see; to say "how beautiful!" of what we do not **feel** is so; to have ready-made formulas in our response to all or most things. No great literature can come of such a mentality.

ADVENTURE, 1955

By **HILDA WATTS**

WHEN I was young, we were fascinated with the idea of 'Adventure.' As children, adventure to us meant exploring countries that had not been explored—jungles, frozen wastes, deserts—or discovering something new. It seemed to us that there would not be much left for us when we grew up, the world was shrinking, there were no 'new' or 'undiscovered' places.

Then, when we grew older, 'adventure' had a different meaning. Science advanced with giant strides, opening up to mankind so much that had always been secret or unknown: discovering the causes of, and conquering diseases that had once menaced humanity; controlling nature; exploring the universe and uncovering new theories of the development of mankind; until within the past few years our horizons expanded boundlessly with the control of the atom, opening up breathless vistas for the future.

With this one, but tremendous, reservation: that these new secrets wrested from nature should not be used to destroy us.

Every new scientific and technical advance brings with it a tinge of fear. What wonders could be performed with atomic energy—provided it is not used for our own destruction; how exciting to think we are beginning to conquer outer space with the proposed launching of satellites round the earth—provided this is not merely for the development of some new, horrible weapon of war. We are racing against time: will we be able to reorganise society, to eliminate all wars and end all poverty, backwardness and ignorance, before the world is destroyed?

Yes, we know it can be done, with knowledge and understanding on the part of the people. The people themselves are seeking the way. In our country, the Congress of the People marked a great stride forward to the liberation of Africa, so essential for the preservation of world peace. But if we are to understand clearly what path must be taken, how to organise, what to do, then we must have the constant exchange and clash of ideas—"Practice without theory is blind. Theory without practice is sterile."

It was in the belief that a forum was needed for the discussion and debate of ideas that LIBERATION was started, more than two years ago. That such a magazine has been greatly needed was shown by the instantaneous welcome that LIBERATION received, and also by the substance of the articles it has published, many of which have broken entirely new ground, or provoked much thought and discussion.

But LIBERATION, through its erratic and unsatisfactory appearance, has not maintained itself, nor developed in the way that it should. And we felt the time had come for an explanation, and some re-statement of aims, if LIBERATION is to continue publication.

Most of our difficulties stem from the nature of this journal—"A Journal of Democratic Discussion"—which invites contributions from democrats of all shades of opinion on matters of political, economic, cultural and scientific interest. As our readers know, more and more such free discussion is being circumscribed in our country. Too many people are becoming afraid—afraid to speak out, afraid to give financial support to democratic organs, afraid to print anything in real opposition to the fascistic rulers of our country.

Hence we have struggled for months with troublesome technical problems, which caused endless delays in the appearance of LIBERATION.

These difficulties have been partially overcome, at least for the time being. But the whole existence of LIBERATION depends on the month-by-month support it receives from progressive people. This means not only financial support, which is essential for continued publication; not only literary support, in the form of letters and articles, which are the life-blood of the magazine; but also the active support that only politically conscious and progressive people can give: reading LIBERATION; debating its contents; discussing the importance of certain articles or statements of view; showing it to neighbours and friends; enrolling subscribers; **utilising it as a weapon in our freedom struggle.**

From now on, we are going to produce LIBERATION more regularly. But what are you going to do? Do you want this magazine to continue publication, to improve, to grow? Is it necessary? Can we achieve it? Yes, definitely yes, if our circle of readers will hold themselves responsible with us for its publication and development, so that LIBERATION can truly fulfil its role in guiding our land on the road to freedom. And that, after all, is the greatest and most exciting adventure of our time.