

## All Men Are Created Equal?

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When one hears that old, timeworn expression, "All men "are created free and equal", it only provokes a wish that it might be true. If intended to mean that all are born with a right to be free, then the "free" part is all right. But the "equal" part of it is in no sense true. One may not shut his eyes to the universal inequality of life. If it be right that we are or should be created equal, then nature, or whatever calls into existence the individuals of this life, has woefully failed. That he who is born to ignorance and of mean material is born the equal of him who is born to all the invironment of fortunate conditions and with talents and all that makes for victory in life, will not be asserted by the thoughtful. By nature one is born a "clod",---"a brother to the ox"---, while another is given by nature all those things that make him conspicuous among men and able to win the best of life with ease,---that which the "clod" can not reach however much he may struggle. The "clod" may yearn to be great, to be large of soul and mind, but nature has shackled his feet and those things he may not be. What a tragedy all this! Nearly everyone who is low and mean is so because nature made him so. In birth there is no equality, even though we do not consider external environments. Nature never intended equality among its created things. The dove is not given the steel claws and saber beak of the eagle, and each is powerless to pass the line of differentiation fixed by nature. From the smallest infusoria to the mastodon, nature speaks in terms of inequality.

Not only is this true in classes and species; inside those, inequality is as well marked as outside. That phrase should have been written, "All men should be born to an attainable right to be equal, one with another". That would be quite another thing.

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