

Chapter 5 - Freedom

When the word freedom comes up in a conversation or writing, my first thought is always, “Freedom from what?”.

Over the centuries since civilization began, humans have created or encountered many things from which we would like to be free.. We want to be free from hunger, cold, injury and danger of death. We’ve had ample opportunity to want to be free from the control of cruel Tribal leaders, Kings, Caesars, Dictators and other self-appointed despots. We have fought wars to be free from the control of kings, political parties, religious groups, tribes, nations and groups of nations with whom we disagree and who would like to tell us how to live.

Women have been especially chosen to have their freedoms removed. Up to and during the Middle Ages, millions of woman were annihilated, many burned at the stake, to take away their freedom and secure the dominance of men. Today we tell ourselves we’ve done away with slavery, one of the greatest usurpers of freedom. While that is true in this country, it is in no way true around the world. We

frequently hear about women forced into sexual slavery.

Beyond the age-old practices used to physically rob humans of their freedom, we now have the means to steal freedom by the written or spoken word.. We must read or listen carefully to be sure what we read or hear is the truth and not someone's attempt to lead us into a false belief that will cause us to lose another freedom. The computer that brings us e-mail constantly threatens to do away with privacy and thereby remove our right to free speech. These actual and threatened attacks on our freedom occur when someone's ego attacks the ego of other people.

If given the choice, the freedom I would give up most readily is the freedom of my ego to say or do something which would harm myself or someone else.