

Sub-Cultures, Group Sub-Consciousness

We label certain intangible phenomena with a multitude of labels. But just cause we can't see something, or even fully explain it, doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. Like the impact of the culture, or the 'spirit' of a nation, community or group. We can all see how cultural influences impact us, and cause us to react to them: some we successfully resist, while others, we cave in to, and conform our actions, and values with those predominating around us. Call it 'peer-pressure' if you like. It's the same phenomena.

Not only do nations have distinct cultures, however, but even groups, religions, businesses, and just about every association of man you can name has it's own unique littel sub-culture.

The ancient Roamns used to call this the Dæmon of a sect. They would usually sacrifice a living being to ensure that it's spirit would suffice to guard over the 'spirit' of the newly formed group. To ensure that each new recruit was guided by this same spirit, thinking, and belief systems, as were the predecessors, so as to continue in the same path.

On a sinister note, this may sound cult-like, and it could definately take that approach if the sub-culture was an evil one. But it also has it's useful applications. Take the military, for insatnce, it takes a definatne group psyche, o ne dramatically different than say, a teachers organization.

Each vocation of men, certianly has it's heroes and martyrs that they look up to as wwell. While a US Marine may venerate men like Robert E. Lee, General Pattone, or even Napolean Bohaparte, a businessman may not even know the particulars of those mens lives. He may venerate the likes of Rockefeller, carnegie, or the like.

Admiration leads to emulation they say, and where your heart is, so is your mind, thoughts, and actions.

Maybe this is why their are so many Orders within the Church, each is developed a distinct culture and way of serving the Lord, trying to emualte their predecessors, and the men and women taht have gone before them. And also, these same Saints surely wacth down from heaven, pray for them, and ensure taht they are maintaining a unified spirit.

Sub-cultures can certainly have a beneficial impact on shaping us into who we strive to be. All too often we view the negative side of peer pressure, and overlook it's potential for good by inspiring us to do more, and be more, especially when our own spirits grow despondent or apathetic.

Sometimes it's refreshing to be sustained by the group subconscious to sustain us until we reinvigorate our eagerness to serve.

I believ that there is no underestimating the power of a solid community of Godly men and women, unified in mind, body, and spirit in

their desire to serve the Lord and fulfill His Will and Purposes here on earth. In fact, just such a community may be the very difference between longevity and endurance, and a short-lived Church that fizzles and dies upon the death of a strong-minded leader. Men live and die and move on, but Spiritual Communions of saints last forever.