

*Meaning vs. Meanness
(Part One)*

What does it mean
to be mean?

If you don't care about
meaning,
you easily become
mean.

Meaning requires
openness;
you are closed down by
meanness.
Meaning invites
inquiry;
meanness results from
obduracy.
Meaning wants to make
sense;
meanness is simply
senseless.

Meanness is rife
with spite and rancor;
meaning is redolent
of right and candor.
Meanness is dour
and repulsive;
meaning is merry
and inclusive.
Meanness denies
and destroys;
meaning affirms
and enjoys.

You can be mean
without meaning it;
you can't pursue meaning
without wanting it.

Meaning engages
our subjectivity;
meanness is expressed
in subjection.
Meanness stems from a
stunted spirit;
meaning comes from an
open mind.

Meanness not only lacks
love,
but also spews forth
hate.
Meaning not only expresses
faith,
but also encourages
hope.

Meanness leads to
loneliness and isolation;
meaning depends on
community and collaboration

Fortune and fame without
meaning
will make you
mean.

It should be obvious,
therefore, that
meanness is
meaningless!

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January 10, 1999
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