STORY OF CIVILIZATION BY WILL DURANT

THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION BY WILL DURANT: A TIMELESS JOURNEY THROUGH HUMAN HISTORY

STORY OF CIVILIZATION BY WILL DURANT IS MORE THAN JUST A HISTORICAL ACCOUNT; IT'S AN EPIC NARRATIVE THAT CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF HUMAN PROGRESS, CULTURE, AND THOUGHT. SPANNING MULTIPLE VOLUMES, THIS MONUMENTAL WORK CO-AUTHORED BY WILL DURANT AND HIS WIFE, ARIEL DURANT, OFFERS READERS AN ENGAGING AND INSIGHTFUL EXPLORATION OF HOW CIVILIZATIONS ROSE, FLOURISHED, AND TRANSFORMED OVER MILLENNIA. FOR ANYONE FASCINATED BY THE EVOLUTION OF SOCIETIES AND THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF HUMAN ACHIEVEMENTS, THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION REMAINS A FOUNDATIONAL RESOURCE, BLENDING SCHOLARSHIP WITH STORYTELLING IN A WAY THAT FEW HISTORICAL TEXTS MANAGE.

THE GENESIS OF THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION

The Story of Civilization began as an ambitious project aimed at making history accessible and exciting to the general public. Will Durant, a philosopher and historian, believed that history should not be confined to dry dates and events but should instead illuminate the grand narrative of human experience. Alongside his wife Ariel, who played a crucial role in research and writing, Durant embarked on this journey in the 1930s. The goal was to produce a comprehensive multi-volume series that traced the development of civilizations from ancient times to the modern age.

What sets this series apart is its narrative style. The Durants were not just chroniclers; they were storytellers who wove together political events, cultural achievements, religious developments, and philosophical ideas into a rich tapestry. This approach helped readers understand not only what happened but why it mattered — the ideas that shaped societies and the individuals who left an indelible mark on history.

OVERVIEW OF THE VOLUMES IN THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION

THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION IS COMPOSED OF 11 VOLUMES, EACH FOCUSING ON A SPECIFIC ERA OR REGION. HERE'S A BRIEF LOOK AT THESE VOLUMES AND WHAT THEY COVER:

1. OUR ORIENTAL HERITAGE

THIS VOLUME EXPLORES THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS OF MESOPOTAMIA, EGYPT, INDIA, CHINA, AND THE NEAR EAST. IT HIGHLIGHTS THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF WRITING, RELIGION, LAW, AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION.

2. THE LIFE OF GREECE

FOCUSING ON THE CLASSICAL PERIOD, THIS VOLUME DELVES INTO GREEK PHILOSOPHY, DEMOCRACY, ART, AND THE FOUNDATIONS OF WESTERN CULTURE.

3. CAESAR AND CHRIST

COVERING THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY, THIS VOLUME EXAMINES THE POLITICAL DYNAMICS AND SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD.

4. THE AGE OF FAITH

THIS SECTION DEALS WITH THE MIDDLE AGES, EXPLORING THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH, THE CRUSADES, AND THE CULTURAL

5. THE RENAISSANCE

HERE, THE DURANTS CAPTURE THE REBIRTH OF ART, SCIENCE, AND HUMANISM THAT MARKED THE TRANSITION FROM MEDIEVAL TO MODERN TIMES.

6. THE REFORMATION

This volume discusses the religious upheaval and political changes triggered by figures like Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation.

7. THE AGE OF REASON BEGINS

FOCUSING ON THE ENLIGHTENMENT, THIS WORK EXPLORES THE RISE OF RATIONAL THOUGHT, SCIENCE, AND NEW POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES.

8. THE AGE OF LOUIS XIV

A DETAILED LOOK AT THE ERA OF ABSOLUTE MONARCHY IN FRANCE, HIGHLIGHTING ART, POLITICS, AND THE BALANCE OF POWER IN EUROPE.

9. THE AGE OF VOLTAIRE

CONTINUING THE ENLIGHTENMENT THEME, THIS VOLUME COVERS REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS AND THE PRELUDE TO MODERN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENTS.

10. ROUSSEAU AND REVOLUTION

EXAMINING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND ITS AFTERMATH, THE DURANTS ANALYZE POLITICAL UPHEAVAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE.

11. THE AGE OF NAPOLEON

THE FINAL VOLUME FOCUSES ON NAPOLEON'S IMPACT ON EUROPE, THE RESHAPING OF NATIONS, AND THE DAWN OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

WHY THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION STANDS OUT

THE ENDURING APPEAL OF THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION LIES IN SEVERAL KEY FACTORS THAT DISTINGUISH IT FROM OTHER HISTORICAL WORKS:

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO HISTORY

RATHER THAN ISOLATING EVENTS, WILL DURANT'S WORK INTEGRATES CULTURAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, RELIGIOUS, AND ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS. THIS MULTIDIMENSIONAL PERSPECTIVE HELPS READERS GRASP THE COMPLEXITIES BEHIND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

ACCESSIBLE YET SCHOLARLY

THE DURANTS STRUCK A RARE BALANCE BY PRODUCING WORK THAT IS ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS BUT APPROACHABLE FOR NON-SPECIALISTS. THEIR CLEAR PROSE AND ENGAGING STORYTELLING INVITE READERS FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS TO DIVE INTO HISTORY WITHOUT FEELING OVERWHELMED.

EMPHASIS ON HUMAN VALUES AND IDEAS

THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION ISN'T JUST ABOUT KINGS AND BATTLES; IT'S ABOUT IDEAS — DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM, JUSTICE, FAITH, AND REASON — AND HOW THESE IDEALS EVOLVED AND INFLUENCED SOCIETIES ACROSS TIME.

THE PARTNERSHIP OF WILL AND ARIEL DURANT

ARIEL DURANT'S CONTRIBUTION IS OFTEN UNDERAPPRECIATED, YET HER RESEARCH SKILLS AND NARRATIVE SENSIBILITIES WERE VITAL TO THE SERIES' SUCCESS. THEIR COLLABORATION ADDED DEPTH AND NUANCE TO THE WRITING, ENRICHING THE HISTORICAL NARRATIVE WITH EMPATHY AND CLARITY.

HOW THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION INFLUENCES MODERN READERS

FOR MANY HISTORY ENTHUSIASTS, EDUCATORS, AND STUDENTS, THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION REMAINS A GO-TO REFERENCE. IT OFFERS NOT JUST FACTS BUT ALSO PERSPECTIVES THAT ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING ABOUT THE FORCES SHAPING HUMAN SOCIETIES. HERE ARE SOME WAYS THE SERIES CONTINUES TO IMPACT READERS TODAY:

- INSPIRATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING: THE DURANTS' PASSION FOR HISTORY INVITES READERS TO VIEW THE PAST AS A CONTINUOUS STORY THAT INFORMS THE PRESENT AND FUTURE.
- Understanding Cultural Connections: By tracing the interconnectedness of different civilizations, the series fosters appreciation for cultural diversity and shared human heritage.
- FRAMEWORK FOR COMPARATIVE HISTORY: STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS USE THE VOLUMES AS A FOUNDATION FOR COMPARING POLITICAL SYSTEMS, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES ACROSS TIME.
- **ENCOURAGEMENT OF PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY:** THE EMPHASIS ON IDEAS AND THINKERS PROMPTS READERS TO REFLECT ON ETHICAL QUESTIONS AND THE EVOLUTION OF THOUGHT.

TIPS FOR READING THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION

GIVEN THE SERIES' SCOPE AND DEPTH, APPROACHING IT STRATEGICALLY CAN ENHANCE THE READING EXPERIENCE:

START WITH YOUR INTERESTS

IF YOU'RE PARTICULARLY FASCINATED BY ANCIENT GREECE OR THE RENAISSANCE, BEGIN WITH THE CORRESPONDING VOLUME. THIS TARGETED APPROACH MAKES THE MATERIAL MORE RELATABLE AND ENGAGING.

TAKE NOTES AND REFLECT

THE DURANTS INTRODUCE MANY COMPLEX IDEAS AND HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS. JOTTING DOWN THOUGHTS OR QUESTIONS CAN

SUPPLEMENT WITH OTHER SOURCES

WHILE THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION IS COMPREHENSIVE, PAIRING IT WITH DOCUMENTARIES, LECTURES, OR OTHER BOOKS CAN PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CONTEXT AND DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS.

READ AT A COMFORTABLE PACE

EACH VOLUME IS SUBSTANTIAL, SO PACING YOURSELF WILL ALLOW YOU TO ABSORB THE INFORMATION WITHOUT FEELING OVERWHELMED.

THE LEGACY OF WILL DURANT'S STORY OF CIVILIZATION

DECADES AFTER ITS PUBLICATION, THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION REMAINS A MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT IN HISTORICAL WRITING. IT SET A HIGH STANDARD FOR HOW HISTORY CAN BE TOLD IN A WAY THAT IS BOTH INFORMATIVE AND CAPTIVATING. BY HUMANIZING THE PAST AND CONNECTING DISPARATE ERAS, WILL AND ARIEL DURANT CRAFTED A NARRATIVE THAT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE CURIOSITY AND RESPECT FOR THE SHARED JOURNEY OF HUMANITY.

Through their work, readers gain not just knowledge of dates and events but an understanding of the cultural and intellectual currents that have shaped the world. The Story of Civilization by Will Durant is, in essence, a celebration of human endeavor — a reminder that history is a living story, always relevant, and forever unfolding.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS 'THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION' BY WILL DURANT ABOUT?

'THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION' BY WILL DURANT IS A COMPREHENSIVE MULTI-VOLUME WORK THAT CHRONICLES THE HISTORY OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE MODERN ERA, EXPLORING CULTURAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

HOW MANY VOLUMES ARE THERE IN 'THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION' SERIES?

THERE ARE 11 VOLUMES IN 'THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION' SERIES, EACH FOCUSING ON DIFFERENT PERIODS AND REGIONS OF HUMAN HISTORY.

WHO COLLABORATED WITH WILL DURANT ON 'THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION'?

ARIEL DURANT, WILL DURANT'S WIFE, COLLABORATED CLOSELY WITH HIM ON WRITING AND RESEARCHING 'THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION' SERIES.

WHEN WAS 'THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION' FIRST PUBLISHED?

'THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION' SERIES WAS FIRST PUBLISHED BEGINNING IN 1935, WITH VOLUMES RELEASED OVER SEVERAL DECADES.

What makes 'The Story of Civilization' unique compared to other history **books?**

'THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION' IS UNIQUE FOR ITS NARRATIVE STYLE THAT COMBINES STORYTELLING WITH SCHOLARLY RESEARCH, MAKING HISTORY ACCESSIBLE AND ENGAGING WHILE COVERING A BROAD SCOPE OF WORLD CULTURES AND IDEAS.

IS 'THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION' STILL RELEVANT FOR READERS TODAY?

YES, 'THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION' REMAINS RELEVANT TODAY AS IT PROVIDES FOUNDATIONAL INSIGHTS INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN SOCIETIES AND ENCOURAGES A HOLISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF HISTORY.

WHERE CAN I FIND AND READ 'THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION' BY WILL DURANT?

'THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION' VOLUMES CAN BE FOUND IN LIBRARIES, BOOKSTORES, AND ONLINE PLATFORMS SUCH AS AMAZON, GOOGLE BOOKS, AND PROJECT GUTENBERG FOR SOME VOLUMES.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

STORY OF CIVILIZATION BY WILL DURANT: AN ENDURING CHRONICLE OF HUMAN PROGRESS

STORY OF CIVILIZATION BY WILL DURANT STANDS AS A MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT IN THE REALM OF HISTORICAL LITERATURE. AUTHORED BY WILL DURANT AND HIS WIFE ARIEL DURANT, THIS MULTI-VOLUME WORK AMBITIOUSLY TRAVERSES THE VAST EXPANSE OF HUMAN HISTORY, PROVIDING READERS WITH A COMPREHENSIVE NARRATIVE THAT BLENDS PHILOSOPHICAL INSIGHT, CULTURAL ANALYSIS, AND SCHOLARLY RIGOR. ITS ENDURING POPULARITY AND CRITICAL ACCLAIM REFLECT ITS SIGNIFICANCE AS BOTH A SCHOLARLY RESOURCE AND AN ACCESSIBLE INTRODUCTION TO THE EVOLUTION OF HUMAN SOCIETIES.

IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION BY WILL DURANT

THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION IS A SWEEPING EIGHT-VOLUME SERIES PUBLISHED OVER NEARLY FOUR DECADES, FROM 1935 TO 1975. It seeks to encapsulate the entirety of human civilization from the dawn of recorded history to the Napoleonic era. Unlike many historical treatises that focus heavily on political events or military conquests, Durant's approach is notably interdisciplinary. His narrative weaves together the strands of philosophy, religion, art, economics, and sociology, offering a holistic perspective on civilization's development.

What distinguishes the Story of Civilization by Will Durant is its narrative style—lucid, engaging, and deeply informed. Durant was a philosopher and educator, and his writing reflects a commitment to making complex ideas accessible without sacrificing nuance. This accessibility has made the series a favorite among general readers and academics alike, bridging the gap between scholarly history and popular understanding.

SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF THE SERIES

THE EIGHT VOLUMES COVER DISTINCT PERIODS AND REGIONS, EACH CAREFULLY RESEARCHED AND RICHLY ILLUSTRATED:

- Our Oriental Heritage (1935): Explores the Early Civilizations of Asia, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China.
- THE LIFE OF GREECE (1939): DELVES INTO ANCIENT GREEK CULTURE, POLITICS, AND PHILOSOPHY.
- CAESAR AND CHRIST (1944): COVERS ROMAN HISTORY AND THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY.

- THE AGE OF FAITH (1950): FOCUSES ON THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD, EXAMINING THE INFLUENCE OF RELIGION IN EUROPE.
- THE RENAISSANCE (1953): CHRONICLES THE REBIRTH OF ART, SCIENCE, AND HUMANISM IN EUROPE.
- THE REFORMATION (1957): ADDRESSES THE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL UPHEAVALS OF THE 16TH CENTURY.
- THE AGE OF REASON BEGINS (1961): DISCUSSES THE SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION AND THE ENLIGHTENMENT.
- THE AGE OF NAPOLEON (1975): CONCLUDES WITH THE TRANSFORMATIVE NAPOLEONIC ERA.

THIS CHRONOLOGICAL AND THEMATIC ORGANIZATION ALLOWS THE DURANTS TO EXPLORE THE CONTINUITY AND CHANGE WITHIN CIVILIZATIONS, HIGHLIGHTING BOTH THE UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH ERA AND THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF GLOBAL HISTORY.

PHILOSOPHICAL AND CULTURAL INSIGHTS

A HALLMARK OF THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION BY WILL DURANT IS ITS EXPLORATION OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERPINNINGS OF SOCIETIES. DURANT DOES NOT MERELY RECOUNT EVENTS; HE PROBES THE IDEAS THAT SHAPED CIVILIZATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE LIFE OF GREECE, HE EXAMINES THE EMERGENCE OF DEMOCRACY, PHILOSOPHY, AND DRAMA AS FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENTS OF WESTERN THOUGHT. SIMILARLY, IN THE AGE OF FAITH, HE ASSESSES THE ROLE OF CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM IN SHAPING MEDIEVAL CULTURE AND WORLDVIEW.

THE DURANTS ALSO EMPHASIZE CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS ALONGSIDE POLITICAL HISTORY. THEIR DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF ART, LITERATURE, MUSIC, AND ARCHITECTURE PROVIDE A RICH CONTEXT FOR UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE ACROSS TIME. THIS FOCUS BROADENS THE READER'S APPRECIATION OF HOW CIVILIZATION IS DEFINED NOT JUST BY POWER STRUGGLES BUT BY CREATIVE AND INTELLECTUAL ENDEAVORS.

COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE: STORY OF CIVILIZATION VS. OTHER HISTORICAL WORKS

When compared to other grand historical surveys like H.G. Wells's "The Outline of History" or Arnold J. Toynbee's "A Study of History," the Story of Civilization offers a more narrative-driven and humanistic approach. Wells's work, written earlier in the 20th century, provides a broad but somewhat impersonal overview, while Toynbee's analysis is heavily theoretical and cyclical in nature.

THE DURANTS' SERIES, BY CONTRAST, IS DISTINGUISHED BY ITS STORYTELLING QUALITY AND EMPHASIS ON MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL LESSONS. THIS APPROACH HAS ITS CRITICS, WHO SOMETIMES ARGUE THAT DURANT'S INTERPRETATIONS REFLECT A CERTAIN IDEALISM OR EUROCENTRIC BIAS. NEVERTHELESS, THE SERIES REMAINS INFLUENTIAL FOR ITS COMPREHENSIVE BREADTH AND ENGAGING PROSE.

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

- STRENGTHS: THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION IS CELEBRATED FOR ITS READABILITY, DEPTH OF RESEARCH, AND INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH. THE DURANTS' ABILITY TO SYNTHESIZE VAST AMOUNTS OF INFORMATION INTO A COHERENT AND COMPELLING NARRATIVE IS UNPARALLELED.
- LIMITATIONS: SOME SCHOLARS HAVE NOTED THAT THE SERIES OCCASIONALLY REFLECTS THE BIASES AND LIMITATIONS OF ITS TIME, INCLUDING A WESTERN-CENTRIC PERSPECTIVE AND LESS CRITICAL ENGAGEMENT WITH NON-WESTERN HISTORIES. ADDITIONALLY, THE EXTENSIVE FOCUS ON CULTURAL ELITES SOMETIMES SIDELINES THE EXPERIENCES OF

DESPITE THESE CRITIQUES, THE SERIES REMAINS A FOUNDATIONAL TEXT FOR UNDERSTANDING THE SWEEP OF HUMAN HISTORY FROM A BROAD, INTEGRATIVE STANDPOINT.

LEGACY AND CONTINUED RELEVANCE

THE IMPACT OF THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION BY WILL DURANT EXTENDS BEYOND ITS ORIGINAL PUBLICATION ERA. IT HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO NUMEROUS LANGUAGES AND USED WIDELY IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS. ITS INFLUENCE IS EVIDENT IN HOW MODERN HISTORIANS AND EDUCATORS APPROACH THE TEACHING OF WORLD HISTORY—EMPHASIZING CONNECTIONS ACROSS TIME AND CULTURES RATHER THAN ISOLATED NATIONAL NARRATIVES.

In the digital age, the Durants' work continues to attract readers seeking a nuanced yet accessible overview of civilization's journey. The series' rich exploration of ideas, cultures, and historical forces serves as a valuable counterpoint to more fragmented or specialized historical accounts prevalent today.

THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION BY WILL DURANT REMAINS A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF COMPREHENSIVE HISTORICAL STORYTELLING, INVITING READERS TO REFLECT ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES THAT HAVE SHAPED HUMAN SOCIETY. ITS ENDURING APPEAL LIES IN ITS ABILITY TO ILLUMINATE THE COMPLEX TAPESTRY OF CIVILIZATION WITH CLARITY, EMPATHY, AND INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY.

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is not a subject; it is all the subjects. Because of this, world history as a discipline has never fit well with the traditional definition of historical research. H.G. Wells wrote the first true book of world history in 1920 and only a few authors have made the attempt to "explain it all" since Wells. In that time, world history has become the chosen subject of polymaths and the field possesses the most potential to unite all of the disciplines of knowledge. The subject of world history has developed several approaches, with "Big History" being the most modern, and flawed, of its variants.

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crucial for the survival of both our national and individual identities. They intentionally structured our form of government to promote our God-given and inalienable rights due us to protect of our labor, private property, and wealth against those within the ruling classes of the church-state strongholds. The time has fully arrived to allow our Founders to speak for themselves. You should, however, hold no pre-conceived biases one way or the other; hold no fantastical favors for or against these men and women whom we identify as Founders; nor hold anything but truth as your guide since it is quite possible that your historical frame of reference will be severely shaken. It is best you simply strap in! Tullius

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story of civilization by will durant: <u>Richtet nicht!</u> Eugen Drewermann, 2023-06-23 Eigentlich weiß es jeder: Fehlbare Menschen können nicht über die Fehler anderer zu Gericht sitzen. Ist wenigstens Gott gerecht? Gott sei Dank nicht! Der Kern der Botschaft Jesu lautet vielmehr: »Und vergib uns unsere Schuld, wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldnern«. Wie gewinnen wir diese

Einsicht im Rahmen unseres Strafsystems zurück? Dazu untersucht Eugen Drewermann in diesem Band Vorstellungen des Strafrechts im Mittelalter und in der frühen Neuzeit. Im Mittelalter haben Papst und Kaiser aus »Gott« ein Mittel ihres Machterhalts gemacht, und beide scheiterten. Das Reich zerfiel in Fürstentümer und Nationalstaaten; die Kirche versuchte die Herrschaft über ihre Gläubigen durch Angst zu erhalten. Die Inquisition nötigte zu Denunziation, Folterverhör und Ketzerverbrennung; die Hexenfurcht, geboren aus der Angst vor Gott, dem Teufel und der eigenen Seele, hielt das Strafrecht auch der Staaten fest im Griff. Erst die Befreiung des Politischen aus den Händen der Kirche ermöglichte eine gewisse Humanisierung des Strafens. Doch auch die Gerechtigkeit der staatlichen Gesetze wird uns Menschen nicht gerecht. Nur wenn wir die Gesetzlichkeit durch Güte überwinden, finden wir zu uns selbst zurück.

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