

CHAPTER 1

SEGAL'S LAW:

A man with one watch knows what time it is. A man with two watches is never sure.

I'll never forget Dartmouth Narzel. When I lived in Honolulu a few years back, we met on several occasions. One thing is certain: If you ever met Dartmouth, you'd never forget him.

Now I don't want to cast any reflections on Dartmouth's lily-white character. He was a decent guy. But he had his peculiarities. Dartmouth was, shall we say, a dim bulb. He was a brick shy of a full load. On an IQ test he would peak out at about 87!

People didn't make fun of Dartmouth, even though he wore a gray wool overcoat in the stifling summer heat and rode a slightly bent '49 Schwinn Silver Streak. They felt sorry for him. So did I.

One sunny July day down at Ala Moana Beach, I saw Dartmouth pedaling along on his bike. I flagged him down and we chatted, mostly about the fact that his brother Ernest (IQ 84) had just saved up enough money to buy something he had always wanted - a monogrammed set of corduroy forks. Then I made the fatal mistake of asking Dartmouth for the time.

He obliged by pulling up his overcoat sleeve to reveal no less than eight (count them) wristwatches - a Waltham, two Bulovas, three Timexes, a Spiro Agnew, and a Mickey Mouse.

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Dartmouth spent the next ten minutes trying to determine if it was, in fact, 11:15, 10:46, 3:45, 1:12, 7:37, 9:10, and - well, one of Mickey's hands was broken off, but Dartmouth didn't know whether it was Mickey's hour or minute hand.

Dartmouth never did, as it turned out, figure out what time it was. Frustration. So he climbed on his slightly warped Silver Streak and tooled off down the street, leaving me totally confused. What time was it?

Moments later, I asked a Japanese tourist the time and was immediately informed that it was precisely 2:30 p.m., according to his Seiko. There was no confusion, but then he had only one watch!

Here is proof positive of the truth of Segal's Law: "A man with one watch knows what time it is. A man with two watches is never sure." And we might add this corollary: "A man with eight watches is totally exasperated!"

Jesus put the same idea in different words when He commented, "You cannot serve two masters: God and money. For you will hate one and love the other, or else the other way around." Matthew 6:24, LB.

Now obviously, Jesus wasn't talking about wristwatches. But the principle applies nonetheless. Jesus was speaking of the whole arena of conflict in the battle between good and evil. He was talking about the spiritual warfare that rages within the human heart and mind.

You see, the great controversy is not being waged by angels in the distant reaches of space. It is being waged between your own two ears. The real battle is for your mind - your will.

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Religionists and psychologists have long agreed that the will is the true command center of man. Whoever controls the will, controls the mind, the heart, the life.

Who controls your will? Who is in charge of your mind? Whom do you serve?

The issue is complicated by the fact that there are opposing forces at work to control the will. There is within every human personality a good nature and an evil nature. The apostle Paul refers to them as the spiritual nature and the carnal nature.

Sigmund Freud recognized the active conflict that occurs in a man's mind because of the presence of these two different forces. In fact, the Freudian school of psychoanalysis believes that this cerebral conflict is the source of most of man's psychic disorders.

Carl Jung, the founder of the school of analytical psychology, was also impressed by the fact that neuroses were caused by the battle between two warring cerebral agents: "What drives people to war with themselves is the intuition or the knowledge that they consist of two persons in opposition to one another. The conflict may be between the sensual and the spiritual man. It is what Faust means when he says, 'Two souls, alas, dwell in my breast.' "

Robert Louis Stevenson, in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, gave a fascinating description of an individual who was swayed one moment by the beneficent Dr. Jekyll in his nature, and then the next minute he was turned into and controlled by his evil and murderous Mr. Hyde nature.

With a little introspection, each of us can sense the presence of two opposite forces within. It is especially easy to

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sense our duality when we have a moral issue to decide. It is not pleasant to have two pugilists battling it out and raising a rumpus in our cerebral attics.

An old Indian lived deep in the woods of northern Canada. Every so often he would make a trek eighteen miles to the trading post to purchase supplies. This particular trip, as the trader was loading the goods - salt, flour, beans - on the Indian's dogsled, he inadvertently dropped four pennies down in the supply box. Not knowing this, the old Indian headed back to his cabin.

The very next day, here came the Indian traveling those eighteen long miles back to the trading post. Opening his fist he displayed the four shiny coins, explaining that the trader had dropped these in his pack by mistake.

"What!" exclaimed the trader. "You came back all that way to return four pennies!"

"You see," said the Indian slowly in broken English, "me get good Indian and bad Indian in heart. Good Indian say, 'Take 'em back.' Bad Indian say, 'Keep 'em.' Good Indian and bad Indian argue and fight all night long. Keep me awake. So I bring 'em back."

This simple story expresses a great truth. For we have all heard these opposing "voices" within us. These are nothing more than the two natures struggling for supremacy. And as uncomplimentary as it sounds, we often find it a real battle to determine which of these two natures will rule us. But sooner or later one will win out. For no one can serve two masters. Furthermore, the person who tries to serve two masters is frustrated and miserable. Look at poor Dartmouth!

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For this purpose God has given us His Spirit. And the person who yields to this Heavenly Force is under divine control. "Now if Christ does live within you his presence means that your sinful nature is dead." "We are living no longer by the dictates of our sinful nature, but in obedience to the promptings of the Spirit." Romans 8:10, Phillips.

"But now you must yourselves lay aside all anger, passion, malice, cursing, filthy talk - have done with them! Stop lying to one another, now that you have discarded the old nature with its deeds and have put on the new nature, which is being constantly renewed in the image of its Creator and brought to know God." Colossians 3:8-10, NEB.

Surrendering one's will to the divine will may seem to be a negative procedure, but it gives positive dividends. Only by allowing Christ's Force to control the heart and mind can we experience real living, new strength and vitality, happiness, and inward peace. May the real Force be with you!

KNOCHEILISMS

PAUL'S LAW: You can't fall off the floor.

RUNE'S RULE: If you don't care where you are, you ain't lost.

BOOB'S LAW: You always find something the last place you look.

LAW OF THE SEARCH: The first place to look for anything is the last place you would expect to find it.

MARY-ANN'S LAW: You can always find what you're not looking for.