History gives us numerous examples during ancient periods of the results of gambling and games of chance. Even the most significant pages of history are filled with stories of how rulers became slaves, having lost by their gambling, not only their wives and children but also their entire empires. Many poetic and dramatic works are based upon these demoralizing temptations. Even the great battle upon that most glorious field of Kurukshetra was caused by a loss in the game of dice.

It would seem as if the conditions of life had long since changed. New codes are laid into the foundation, presupposing a number of acts and consequences. Nevertheless the press brings the strange information that because of the races and the enormous bets made upon them, the birthday celebration of the King has been postponed for another day. If one historian has become convinced with amazement of the gigantic extent and consequences of a game of dice then another historian at some other period might regard with amazement and condemnation such an obvious preference for speculation and games, in place of tribute to the head of an empire. The same history notes down the ancient benediction of arms before a mortal battle in the name of the very same God. Only recently, we witnessed how numerous countries invoked one and the same God to aid them in annihilating their enemies. Time was when we encountered the fact that the heads of empires took along with them their cooks in order to escape poisoning and had a special person for the tasting of the food. Do not outstading statesmen now have to recur to the very same means?

One may bring similar comparisons endlessly. They will arouse the same exclamation of astonishment. “But it is the same whether it occurred in hoary antiquity or whether it happens today in somewhat changed aspect and costume. It means we have not advanced any further.” Perhaps in antiquity it even happened more frankly and more picturesquely thus redeeming to a certain extent the inner hypocrisy and villainy. Besides in ancient times, there was less of the hypocritical written and the laws of Manu, Hamurabi and those of the first law-makers were much briefer, although in many cases their conciseness made them far more impressive.

Since those ancient times many new empires were born and passed into oblivion. There have been so many changes of rulers that the record of history could hardly encompass all these changes and only the testimonies of artists who through a coin, a medal or steina bring us records of the new name, are we given a hint of one more conqueror who disappeared. But these changes cannot seem amazing when we are faced now with the colossal changes of the entire surface of the planet. When in addition to the half legendary but already cognized Atlantis, we have an entire group of historic islands which have disappeared comparatively recently.

Some islands disappear and other shores and peaks emerge. The soil which seems to us so immovable and steadfast, is moving relatively only a little slower than the ocean waves. It would seem as though humanity ought to be accustomed during its long life to motion. And exactly this principle of relativity and motion ought at last to attract the attention of humanity upon its own evolution.
It was already the enlightened Marcus Aurelius who wrote the wise covenant, “Study the motion of the luminaries as one who participates in it.” But this wise advice has thus far remained entirely without application. If humanity could rise in thoughts to the far-off worlds then what a speedy and brilliant evolution would be consummated.

I know that you will speak about all the newest discoveries calling them the crown of evolution. You speak about isolated brilliant theories which are read in leisure time. Finally, you speak about the customs of so-called civilized life which now permits to the broad masses that some time ago was only possessed by rulers and supreme priests. It is true that our cities while poisoning the human organism and creating a crippled generation, give some possibilities already for utilizing the new discoveries. But we do not speak about the sewerage systems of civilization. We do not speak of canned vegetables nor yet about canned music. We speak of that which gives impulse to the best decision of humanity.

Only recently we have lived through a terrific war. We are aware that in this decade the consequences of war have not only been ceased, but on the contrary have crystallized and swelled into a real misery. They have become a misery well-nigh irreparable that at our school or university desk we hear the old advice “Mutatis Mutandis” change that which ought to be changed. Since then a multitude of barbaric facts of war and peace times have invaded life. Human misery may once more be convinced how at the same time the scientific laboratories have utilized their facilities in inventing new poisonous gases. Does not the scientist in the field of chemistry who has invented the most deadly gas dream of receiving the prize for chemistry from the same committee which gives the peace award? Even now some people dream of such an achievement of science as would, with one fratricidal despatch, kill entire populated regions. And perhaps another enlightened scientist dreams about the “successful” poisoning of all waters, in order that everything alive should perish. To this someone may answer that it is not the scientists who are inventing such murderous forces, but that it is the technicians, the engineers. No, dear readers, without scientific knowledge, such murderous brutality could not be invented. And was it not a scientist who discovered the ray of death, and who by the very command of special justice, departed to the infernal regions together with his venomous inventions?

But things could be simpler, if the scientists could give an oath similar to that of physicians not to permit out of their laboratories any injurious discoveries. The more so because many of these terrible gases and rays could perhaps with the addition of one ingredient be turned to the true benefit of humanity.

Mutatis Mutandis. In the days of profoundest calamities one must speedily change that which ought to be changed. And first of all one ought to change that which is harmful into that which is beneficial. Do not play the roles of fools, as if you did not know what was of benefit. Every human heart knows in its depth perfectly well where is common benefit, benefit for the nearest one and at the same time benefits for oneself. For nowhere in creativeness is self-destruction demanded. The true common benefit is also the benefit for oneself because one is part of the community.

Changing that which was harmful into the beneficial, namely replacing the criminal destruction by construction, we will do that which is needed for evolution. We will do that which is needed not only for the evolution-civilization, but for evolution-culture. Someone in a spell of madness has tried to conceive of a corporation which would undertake the erection of a shaft to the most incalculable depths to be filled with the newest, most terrific explosives which would split the planet by an unprecedented explosion. The plan is a mad one. But in its very rashness it deserves more attention than the inventions of new deadly gases. And the secret countenancing of narcotics which deteriorate entire generations and kill entire nations which were glorious in their past. Must not this scourge of humarity which is more perilous than syphilis, cancer and tuberculoses be exterminated from life? And cannot each one of us name a multitude of problems which deserve immediate extermination from life?

The best ones, the enlightened ones must undefeasibly unite for opposition against darkness, ignorance, distortion and treason. These best ones must unite in all countries not for the sake of police measures and counter-actions which demand forbiddances but in the name of light and education as such. Feeling in one’s heart the undesirability of the evolution of culture, this luminous League of Culture must unite, casting aside all petty conventions, and for the Bliss of humanity must actively change that which must be changed.

Mutatis Mutandis!