

## *Democracy is no guarantee of freedom ...*

<sup>5</sup> Those slogans which always rule the masses at the stage of civilization include in our times democracy and equality. Democracy presupposes ideal men. There can never be any equality. Classes are the natural order of things in all kingdoms of nature, lower as well as higher ones. The natural classes indicate different age classes. The difference in age between human individuals can amount to seven eons. The immense difference in experience of life is greater than ignorance can possibly grasp. That nobody really believes in equality appears in the fact that although pride refuses to recognize anyone as its superior, yet contempt always sees untold multitudes below itself. The principle of equality implies a denial of development, of the difference between potential god and actual god. Democracy counteracts development by continually lowering all requirements of ability, knowledge, insight, and understanding; by allowing the incomparably more numerous younger part of mankind to oppress those at the stages of culture, humanity, and ideality. Democracy is no guarantee of freedom, no more a guarantee against abuse of power than any other kind of government: one-man rule, clique rule, rule by a class, or by the majority . . .

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