



On Being Human

By Erich Fromm

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On Being Human By Erich Fromm

An insightful look at alienation in the modern world from the *New York Times*–bestselling author of *The Art of Loving* and *Escape from Freedom*.

Social psychologist Erich Fromm observed the spread of alienation in the 1960s, arguing that humans who were once dynamic, creative beings were reduced to fixating on TV screens, emotionally paralyzed by anxieties over threats like nuclear war. Though we may stare at different devices and worry about other dangers today, his insights are as useful as ever, and allow us to gain perspective on the human condition.

A collection of his writings on “New Humanism” and the need to reclaim our happiness and peace of mind, this is a thoughtful, fascinating overview of the past that shaped us, and the philosophies and practices that can ensure a better future, both for ourselves and for the world at large. Included are reflections on thinkers from Karl Marx to medieval Catholic mystic Meister Eckhart, as “Fromm’s large, keen mind and attractive, likable voice [strive] for heart as he asks himself the hardest questions of his day” (*Kirkus Reviews*).

This ebook features an illustrated biography of Erich Fromm including rare images and never-before-seen documents from the author’s estate.

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Editorial Review

From Kirkus Reviews

Posthumous gathering of thoughts by the late socialist/humanist of *The Art of Loving*, *The Anatomy of Human Destructiveness*, etc. Fromm (1900-80), a German psychoanalyst who came to the US in 1934 and lectured at Columbia, Yale, Bennington, Michigan State, and NYU while publishing books on Western man facing his own alienation, wrote most of these formerly uncollected pieces, or delivered them off the cuff, during the 60's and 70's. Most of them circle around a common thought: alienation as a disease of modern man and the need for a humanist socialism "as distinct from existing capitalism as from the falsification of socialism that Soviet communism calls itself." How can a call for "a new humanism as a condition for one world" (as one piece herein is entitled by the book's editor, Rainer Funk) be answered by that creature whom Fromm describes as so utterly alienated by his fixation on "things" and "having" and by his blind eye to "being"? To locate some possible firm ground on which to begin building this new humanist/socialist, Fromm digs into unlikely places and finds a humanist bond between the concepts of man in Karl Marx and the treatises and sermons of the medieval German Catholic mystic Meister Eckhart. Both writers focused on poverty and "having" and "being" for their visions of man's social possibilities. Like Marx, Fromm says, "Eckhart denounces the property structure of existence as the evil that stands in the way of man's freedom, his aliveness, his finding himself." Some of this reads like a period piece, hinging as it does on our postwar Big Bomb anxieties and on depression flooding from the cold war- -decades of bad feelings that still abound but are fading into new horrors. Fromm's large, keen mind and attractive, likable voice strives for heart as he asks himself the hardest questions of his day. -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Review

"Fromm's large, keen mind and attractive, likable voice strive for heart as he asks himself the hardest questions of his day." —*Kirkus Reviews*

About the Author

Erich Fromm (1900–1980) was a bestselling psychoanalyst and social philosopher whose views about alienation, love, and sanity in society—discussed in his books such as *Escape from Freedom*, *The Art of Loving*, *The Sane Society*, and *To Have or To Be?*—helped shape the landscape of psychology in the mid-twentieth century. Fromm was born in Frankfurt, Germany, to Jewish parents, and studied at the universities of Frankfurt, Heidelberg (where in 1922 he earned his doctorate in sociology), and Munich. In the 1930s he was one of the most influential figures at the Frankfurt Institute of Social Research. In 1934, as the Nazis rose to power, he moved to the United States. He practiced psychoanalysis in both New York and Mexico City before moving to Switzerland in 1974, where he continued his work until his death.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Willie Hickox:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for us. The book *On Being Human* had been making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The publication *On Being Human* is not only giving you far more new information but also being your friend when you sense

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Virgina Scheffer:

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Andrea Behnke:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love On Being Human, you are able to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Leesa Banta:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got scholars? We believe that that question was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. And also you know that little person such as reading or as reading through become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important and book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to incorporate you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update concerning something by book. Many kinds of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is niagra On Being Human.

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