

Copernican Unity versus Ptolemaic Discord

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I LIKE MR. EMERY REVES, believe that our modern world must become a Copernican society, and that we must emerge from the old Ptolemaic system of living if we are to have a harmonious existence. It seems to me, however, that just as the change in point of view from Ptolemy's astronomical doctrine to the new and enlightened one of Copernicanism took generations, so will it be with the conversion from Ptolemaic nationalism to Copernican worldwide unity. The ideas of state sovereignty (Ptolemaic) have been well instilled in the minds of modern men, and one-world-mindedness (Copernicanism), like the theory concerning the solar system, will not be a readily accepted ideology. We must then, destroy the barriers of sovereignty, and replace them with standards of universal equality. By so doing, we shall create new codes of philosophy, and our narrow, nationalized interests will become proportionately microscopic conversions to an international doctrine. A current move in this direction has resulted in the United Nations Organization, where again we are recording, for history, the attempts of great nations to reach amicable settlements of their differences. This fabulous organization, if allowed to function properly, could establish a definite line of demarcation between nationalist Ptolemaic and unified Copernican thought. Within this collective unit of representative nations we should have the "remnant"¹ of our expansive world population; a remnant of delegates possessing ability, wisdom and the will to improve and strengthen the international relationship of the masses.

With due regard to those representatives now serving with the United Nations, I believe we still must learn more of tolerance and compromise; and make an even greater effort to minimize the nationalism which is now dominant. If we can accomplish these goals, our feeble steps toward harmonious living and world peace, will become strides of progression; but if the remnant is not qualified, and if their accomplishments are constantly superseded by selfish motives of isolationism, then our ultra-modern atomic civilization is doomed to perish by its own near-sightedness.

¹ As Matthew Arnold uses the word in *Numbers*.