

EDITOR'S NOTE

It is said that for one to write convincingly and, at the same time, with depth as well as with wit, that person must have fire in the belly and ice in his veins.

This piece of advise makes one recall the ancient philosophers' contention that the 4 elements composing the whole or reality, namely, earth, water, fire and spirit likewise play vital roles in fashioning well-oiled and fine-tuned writings in philosophy. As Maurice Merleau-Ponty aptly pointed out, putting one's deep reflections in writing is analogous to a sculptor's chiseling out the sharp, yet lovely features of a masterpiece from the tough and initially-resisting slab of formless and lifeless marble. Only when the form has actually come out can the artist, as "creator," and the spectator claim that they have witnessed to and taken part in the birth of being.

Such a view reformulates, to a certain extent, Socrates' maieutic method: the coming to birth of a writing after it was conceived and gestated in the womb of the author's mind.

The articles, which is this issue offers, give witness to and celebrate in such a birth of ideas.

Jove Jim Aguas leads the readers to the ideas presented by the Jewish German existentialist, Martin Buber, on what educators must do, and, above all, be.

Fr. Michael Mary Pruvost, on the other hand, invites all of us to a discussion on liberty in the context of an era: Post Modernism. The exciting and, at times infuriating, thoughts that Nietzsche initiated after he had broken away from the enslaving clutches

of a manner of thinking dominant from the time of Descartes to the of Kant and eventually Hegel brought forth a stream of similarity striking ideas on the nature of liberty.

Atty. Franco Pagaran Jr. bring us to the oftentimes fascinating and mysterious world of the East, Ideas from the Chinese military genius, Sun Tzu, lend themselves very well to the realm of interpersonal relationships.

Finally, the last but not the least article of Fr. Quintin Terrenal on Spinoza's idea of happiness makes for a profound but happy reading. The latter's life as well as his thoughts remind us in rather strong terms of an earlier quest for happiness made by the incarcerated Boethius in *De Consolatione Philosophiae*.

May the readers find real profundity and paths to authentic happiness while going to the articles we have just cited.

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Editor