which is unwholesome, but from a lack of knowledge of psychological laws & the power of suggestion. A true understanding of mental philosophy is all that is needed. Intelligently grasping the laws of any force or thing, we have it not only under control, but harnessed for use. The principles of suggestion, like edged tools, when rightly used, are of wonderful utility. Its power to project high ideals is unlimited, but it recoils when misdirected.

The newspapers possesses a gigantic power to mould & colour public consciousness; and its conduct involves a very grave responsibility, which its managers either lightly regard, or are quite unaware of; but, after all, it is but an articulation of that which preponderates in human thought. A majority want sensationalism, & supply always responds to demand. But if rapid money-making could be made secondary, the daily press would be an immense educational and uplifting force in society.

Principles only are here considered, and when once understood they will make their own application discriminately. The purveyors of the daily press cannot be expected to be disinterested philanthropists, more than other men, though their power is gigantic and their responsibility peculiar. As things are, the main hope for reform must begin with the public, or on the side of demand. The great need is a more intelligent understanding of the psychological laws of suggestion & subjective realism as causative forces. Results can only be modified through internal & underlying antecedents, and not by mere external repression.

The familiar aphorism, "As a person thinks in their heart, so are they," is not merely a moral maxim, but a scientific truism. What people mentally dwell upon they become. Thought, even when centered upon a non-entity, in proportion to its intensity & continuity confers subjective realism. Not by chance, but by law, each mental delineation leaves its distinctive hue in the grand composite which makes up character. The undisciplined thinkingfaculty has a sponge-like absorbability of the medium which surrounds it, and only by systematic idealism can it be trained to close its avenues against discordant and depressing environment. Thought projected in specific directions soon forms its own channels, which are rapidly deepened by habit. When turned upon the pure, the true, and the beautiful, these positives soon cast out their negative opposites.

The quality of thinking determines consciousness, and consciousness forms character. Character is, therefore, nothing more nor less than an habitual quality of consciousness. It is often supposed to consist of action, but it is that which is back of action. Any demoralization which comes from without does not come direct, but from the sympathetic vibration of corresponding unisons within. Action is often temporarily modified from motives of outward policy, but its constant effort is to become a true copy of the inner pattern.

The scientific way to destroy evil is not to hold it up and analyze it in order to make it hateful, but rather to put it out of the consciousness. To the degree that one does not see it, to him it becomes non-existent, because there is nothing to arouse its vibrations within. But it is important to remember that evil is real only as a subjective condition. Whether or not we so wish, we are modified by every picture thrown upon the mental canvas. No matter to what extent one may detest a crime, one cannot immerse their consciousness in its turbid waves without taking on some of its slime and sediment.

But outside of what is distinctively classed as crime, the outpicturing of everything of a negative or inharmonious nature is unprofitable. The frictions, accidents, discords, and every other lack of harmony, of whatever name, occupy room in the consciousness which is of value. A thousand objective normal human developments attract no attention, while the single abnormity is put in the lens & thrown upon the screen. Its kind is thereby propagated. Occasional "outs" are made so important that they almost appear to be the rule. Reform will come only so fast as the necessity for more ideal mental pictures is appreciated. All real entities were formed by the Creator, and all are good; so that the abnormal when displaced from the human consciousness finds no resting-place.

The real world we dwell in is our thought world, rather than the material objects which surround us. The colour of all outward environment depends upon the glasses through which we view it. The human consciousness is like an endless corridor in a picture gallery, each visitor executing & hanging their own works of art. Their preference is determined by the character of those before which they linger.

Security and stability are basic human needs, no less important than other needs like food/clothing. Islamic Law combines stability, flexibility& firmness.

The Islamic penal system has certain unique virtues & distinguishing features. The most important of these are the following: 1. The internal deterrent of man's moral conscience is fully integrated with external supervision. This is due to the fact that Islamic Law, when dealing with social problems such as crime, does not rely merely on legislation & external deterrents. On the contrary, it focuses on the internal deterrent, placing the greatest emphasis on man's moral conscience. It endeavours to develop man from childhood, so that he can be brought up with the noblest moral character.

It promises success & salvation for those who work righteousness & warns the wrongdoers of an evil destiny. In this way, it stirs up emotions, making a criminal renounce his criminal ways by inspiring in him faith in God, hope for divine mercy, fear of divine punishment, adherence to moral virtues, love for others, and a desire to do good to others and refrain from causing injury and harm.

2. It has a balanced outlook with respect to the relationship between the individual & society. This becomes clear from the fact that while the Divine Law protects society by legislating punishments & preventative measures against crimes, it does not marginalize the individual for the sake of society. On the contrary, its priority is the protection of the individual, his freedom & rights. It provides every safeguard to leave no excuse for one to have to resort to crime. It does not resort to punishment without first preparing for the person a situation conducive to a virtuous & happy life.

Crime has been compared to an impetuous torrent which ought to be enclosed between the dykes of punishment, lest civilized society should be submerged. Punishments are the dykes of crime, but they are dykes of no great strength or utility. All nations know by sad & chronic experience that their dykes cannot save them from inundations; and so our statistics teach us that punishments have but an infinitesimal power against the force of criminality, when its germs are fully developed.

But as we can best protect ourselves against inundations by obeying the laws of hydrostatics and hydrodynamics, by timbering the banks near the source of the stream, and by due rectilineation or excavation along its course and near its mouth, so, in order to defend ourselves against crimes, it is best to observe the laws of good family upbringing, and to avail ourselves of spirituality, which are far more efficacious than whole arsenals of repressive measures.

Backed by arsenals of weapons!!!

Social reforms are much more serviceable

Than the penal code in preventing an inundation of crime

Why should the horrors of murders, the morbidity of suicides, or even the details of catastrophes, be branded upon thousands of sensitive souls, where their scars will be indelible? The digital news-gathering facilities are marvelous. It is an unprecedented force, for no former period can be compared with it. But, it must be asked, why is it that under the plea of "enterprise" or giving "the news," a murder, a robbery, a rape, or some nameless outrage, should be put in thought pictures, framed, and hung up in the mental chambers of millions, where high ideals are scarce for lack of room? A material photograph may be destroyed in an instant, while an immaterial one, may remain for a life-time, often forcing its way into the consciousness uncalled for, or even when forbidden. The artificialism of modern civilization, the struggle for wealth & social position, the pursuit of sensuous gratification — are powerful factors which disintegrate character, obscure high ideals & bring disorder & abnormality into overt manifestation. But perhaps a more potent element of demoralization than any of these is found in the deluge of delineated criminality & other morbid reading-matter, in which the community mentally dwells, and the poisonous fumes of which it is constantly inhaling. This great, unceasing supply of

unsound mental pabulum comes in the forms

of offensive sensationalism in the daily press,

flashy illustrated mags, and the cheap "blood

which are devoured in unlimited quantities by

& thunder" fiction, films & digital games

youthful & immature minds.

## God commands justice, righteousness & spending on relatives, & prohibits licentiousness, wrongdoing & injustice

very outward manifestation is a harvest. No full-fledged or overt act takes place that is not the lawful sequence of previous incubation, nourishment, and growth. When a criminal offence "happens," the usual concern is only with the event, its details, and the adequate punishment of the offender. The act is vividly outlined, its heinous features are analyzed, the guilt of its supposed author is passed upon, and a demand is made for the enforcement of the proper penalty. This comprises all that society feels called upon to do in the premises.

A blow has been dealt to the community in one of its parts. The community deals a proportionate one in return; and thus the transaction is closed, and the books balanced. Possibly some "motive" may be discovered, which forms the last or immediate step behind the act; but farther back, or in broader scope, neither general nor special investigation is thought necessary.

While deeper research may not be practicable officially, it is of great importance that there should be a more general and intelligent appreciation of the processes through which crime and disorder are generated. The superficial and objective spirit of our civilization is unfavourable for a thorough study of primary and subjective causation. The Within that finds expression in the Without lies hidden away from the popular gaze, and only through some application of psychological law can it be clearly interpreted.

Murderers are destroyers of lives, addicted to hate & power. The truth is that many have wedded hate to their own selfish wills, and once hate lives in the human heart reason dies. It is not murder that is the crime; it is hate, the foundation where it all begins. Our actions do not come just by impulse. They come by a system of values to which our lives

are deeply committed. Murderers & masterminds of violence & oppression are rarely emotionally deranged people; they are morally perverted. Their thinking is destructive and their emotions follow.

No criminal motive ever grows in weight so that it finally preponderates, except by slow and intangible accretions. However spontaneous or impulsive any given offence may appear in its method, the foundation upon which it rears itself has been slowly formed from a variety of sediment. The great lesson of modern science is that nothing "happens." Everything that comes is pushed from behind. This philosophy, which is accepted by all careful thinkers, and perhaps theoretically by a wider circle, is yet far from being acknowledged as a practical truism. We live under an economy of law absolutely universal in its scope; but while no link in the chain of detail includes the least element of chance, there is no fatalism involved in this perfect order. On the contrary, all real freedom comes only from the Divine Aid, and through intelligent conformity. Divine Law is always in readiness to serve us; but we must adopt its methods.

There is no pessimism involved in a study of the generation of crime; for the very laws and forces which by abnormal use bring it into expression are abundantly potent, when rightly used, for the production of its normal & wholesome opposites. While recognizing an upward trend as broad as humanity, and an optimism which views "evil" only as a subjective condition, yet it is evident that there are operative at the present time special forces that directly germinate crime and disorder. It is said that thousands of murders took place within the limits of the "civilized West" during the last year, and offences of lesser degree have been so numerous that even an approximate estimate can hardly be formed. However, we are dealing not with statistics but principles.

That a large ratio of space in the newspapers is crowded with matter that in varying degree may be classed as abnormal & unwholesome is a palpable and unquestioned fact. In reading the newspapers or magazines or browsing the Net we are forced to gaze at pictorial representations which are as near the borderline of indecency as it is possible to be and escape the law. The world is full of "suggestion" of every quality.

The sediment which settles from all these turbid agitations furnishes the soil out of which murders, suicides, sexual immoralities, thefts, and numberless other disorders are the continual growth and fruitage. If unsound meat or decayed vegetables are palmed off upon the public, the guilty offender is arrested and punished; but youthful and pure consciousness may be invaded and poisoned, and all is taken as a matter of course. Society concerns itself considerably with the punishment of crime, but very little with its prevention. The penalty for overt criminality is conventionally supposed to act as a powerful deterrent; but it has only a limited power in that direction. While government—or organized society — cannot take legal cognizance of anything less than overt acts, it is important that there should be a general and intelligent knowledge of the constructive process through which criminals are made. They do not come by chance, but grow; and their growth is through suggestion. The immediate psychical impulse which precedes the overt act is but one link in a chain which reaches back indefinitely.

Society in general is responsible for its criminality. Its criminals are not detached units on the outside, but rather eruptions from within. The circulation of the body politic is impure. Prevailing morbid thoughts and ideas naturally find embodiment, an illustrative specimen of which was seen in the slayer of innocent persons. As well cut off an occasional thistle-head, with the expectation of killing the crop, as hope to exterminate crime through the deterrent power of legislative penalty.

The lack of moral and social progress is due to a prevailing sensuous superficiality, which concerns itself only with phenomena instead of deep causative forces. Criminality is purely expressive & symptomatic. The laws of mind are unswerving & exact. Mental conditions, including all qualities of thought & suggestion, tend to outward expression. To illustrate: An atrocious murder takes place. The daily press, TV & the Net, by full detail and embellishments, graphically engraves it, with all its suggestiveness, upon the public consciousness. Its passion and abnormity are held up and analyzed until they permeate the whole psychic atmosphere. The criminal is surrounded by the halo of romance and glamour of notoriety. His likeness is given

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a prominent place in a leading column, and is thus brought before the eyes of unnumbered thousands. And recently modern "enterprise" reproduces the whole scene, through cuts or engravings, not omitting the weapons. A mental picture of the tout ensemble is thus photographed upon all minds and memories. The details are read, re-read, and discussed. Where there is any mind containing, in some degree, a chord of savagery, animalism, or morbidity, it is stirred into corresponding vibration. Possibly some, who have been near the verge of a similar act, are pushed over the line. But no one escapes untarnished. The soundest and sanest minds cannot thus have the imaging faculty tampered with, without some deterioration, even though it be unconscious.

Quran: 95: 4-6: We have certainly created man in the best of stature; Then We return him to the lowest of the low, Except for those who believe and do righteous deeds, for they will have a reward uninterrupted. In the transition from primeval or animal man to humanity, there has been brought over a large residuum of animality, and this forms a kind of false self, which is stirred and stimulated by outward morbid suggestion. A pugilistic encounter, a street-fight, or even a dog-fight, will, as if by magic, draw a crowd, much as a magnet will gather iron filings. In many cases a man seems to be but a thin veneer to the animal within, the latter often breaking through from outside suggestion. The occasional boy who starts out with hatchet & pistol to rob, or fight with Indians, as suggested by mental pictures drawn from the great juvenile library of "blood & thunder" fiction, only goes somewhat farther in the same direction than all other boys travel who live upon the same mental stimulant.

Murders & trials furnishes a striking illustration of the extent to which tragic events can fill the public mind and consciousness. The official trials of the accused parties are but little more exhaustive than thousands of unofficial trials which take place in drawing-rooms and business offices. But this is by no means solely the fault of publishers & editors. The public taste needs to be rectified. Everyone who reads, dwells upon, and rehearses such a quality of thought is in some measure responsible. All this is common, not because of any intention to give currency to that