

Making Sense of a New Form of Evil

By **STEPHEN GREGORY**
Opinion Editor

We have noted that doctors who take part in the organ harvesting from living Falun Gong practitioners can make considerable profit. But that does not satisfy the question I know we are all asking: How can doctors, who should pledge to use their skills only for the well-being of others, willingly take part in such crimes? The Christian Chinese human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng recently did an investigative report into the persecution of Falun Gong. In the conclusion to that report he says:

Where did our system fail? It has bred so many vicious public officials who live among us, have been supported by us, who were raised by parents like ours, and have families like ours! The tragic experience of ... [Falun Gong practitioners] fully illustrates that, in our society, there is a group of public officials who persistently disregard the basic moral values of human society, and have been continuously using methods that are completely distant from basic human morality and human nature. They covertly scheme their dirty deals that are causing the very destruction of our nation's human nature, basic morals, kindness, and conscience.

It is the destruction in China of "human nature, basic morals, kindness, and conscience" that we need to understand.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has ruled China through terror and lies. It has been responsible for killing an estimated 80 million Chinese.

One does not kill 80 million people in a fit of absent mindedness. Murder, often mass murder, has been CCP policy since it first took power.

The CCP kills in order to instill fear and to enforce absolute belief in its doctrines. However, no matter how much it kills, the CCP has found it needs to change its doctrines in order to assure its rule. Mao's glorification of the peasantry could never produce the wealth or the arms that could defend China from conquest. Thus, the CCP over time has continually had to refute its own ideology. A Party originally founded on the need to kill capitalists now invites capitalists to join its ranks.

The result, then, of 57 years of killing is that everyone in China fears the CCP, but no one, including especially the members of the CCP, believes in com-

munist. The terror of the CCP finally serves only the determination to tyrannize over China, to assure the CCP's rule.

But, while no one in China believes in communism anymore, the CCP has also assured that no one believes in very much else.

We need to understand the destruction of 'human nature, basic morals, kindness, and conscience'

Like all tyrants, the CCP is extremely jealous. It has sought to assure that no belief other than the sanctioned ideology might hold a place in the hearts of the Chinese people. It has from the very beginning of its rule tried to destroy Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Christianity. These faiths have been allowed to continue only as shells of their former selves meant to satisfy any vestigial urges in the Chinese people toward belief, while depriving that belief of any real power.

The persecution of Falun Gong is simply part of the CCP's long-standing hostility to faith of any kind. This hostility has uprooted in the Chinese people all of the sources of traditional morality. There is in China no publicly accepted belief that can restrain and give order to the passions and provide the basis for community.

Of course, the CCP's terror has nonetheless inescapably taught important moral lessons to the Chinese people—negative ones. It has taught each individual to be wary, to trust no one, to place self-preservation above all, and to be insensitive to the sufferings of others.

To get rich is the positive moral injunction the CCP has urged on its citizens in the past two decades. However, as Adam Smith understood, the human heart hardly needs to be told to be selfish. The pursuit of wealth in China occurs in a context within which there are no restraints on the desire to acquire.

Regularly one reads in the Chinese press about the adulteration of food and medicine, sometimes with fatal results. Economic enterprises pollute the environment to a catastrophic extent.

Development occurs by seizing the homes of urban dwellers and the land of farmers with little or no compensation. Lives are ruined so the developers can make a little more profit on their projects.

The gleaming skyscrapers of Shanghai and Beijing are often built by peasants who never get paid their wages. There are heartbreaking stories of such

workers who, with the building nearing completion, are not willing to face the shame of returning to their villages penniless and throw themselves off the topmost floor.

China's mining industry has by far the worst safety record in the world, as mining companies will not spend enough money to keep miners safe.

CCP officials lead the way in this economy of corruption, and steal from everyone—last year there was a report of over 4,000 CCP officials having fled China taking tens of billions of dollars with them.

When a Chinese surgeon looks into the eyes of a living Falun Gong practitioner before slicing him open to take his kidney, this doctor is simply acting according to the same moral norms that are unfortunately all too common in today's China.

In short, the large-scale organ harvesting from living Falun Gong practitioners is finally possible because of the effects on the human heart of 57 years of rule by the CCP.

Our horror at this organ harvesting ultimately does not challenge our skepticism, it challenges our complacency. It forces us to examine ourselves. We in the West have for decades now assumed that we could do good for China by trying to get rich in China as rapidly as we could. We very comfortably found no conflict between our own ease and what we said was good for the Chinese people.

But our buying cheap products from China, while pouring billions of investment into China, has not changed the CCP. In the words of Edward McMillan-Scott in a report he wrote for the European Parliament upon returning to China after ten years, "The Chinese communist regime is still a system of atrocity, despotism, and bigotry."

In the end, the organ harvesting from living Falun Gong practitioners challenges us to understand the horror of the rule of the CCP over China.

Thank you.

This is excerpted and adapted from a talk given at a "Forum on China's Illegal Organ Harvesting" held at the Ethical Center of St. Louis on August 16. The talk was co-sponsored by the St. Louis Falun Gong Practitioner's Group of St. Louis and the Ethical Action Committee of the Ethical Society. It was supported by the Jewish Community Relations Council. The full talk may be read at: <http://www.theepochtimes.com/news/6-8-17/45032.html>.

End Game for the Communist Party Epoch Times Serializes the 'Nine Commentaries'

Since *The Epoch Times* began publishing the "Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party" in November 2004, over 12.8 million Chinese have renounced all ties with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). People inside and outside China are coming to understand better than ever before the true nature of the Communist Party, and as a result the Party is dissolving. The "Nine Commentaries" has played an important role in this. The Epoch Times is now serializing this important book, with one short excerpt in each edition. In today's edition we offer the beginning to Commentary Four. The entire "Nine Commentaries" may be read at <http://ninemcommentaries.com>

Commentary 4

On How the Chinese Communist Party Opposes the Universe

Foreword

Chinese people value greatly the Tao, or the Way. In ancient times a brutal emperor would be called "a decadent ruler who lacks the Tao." Any behavior not conforming to the standard of morality, which, in Chinese, is denoted by the two characters *Dao De*, meaning Tao and virtue respectively, was said "not to follow the principle of Tao." Even farmers in revolt put out banners proclaiming "achieve the Way on behalf of heaven." Lao Zi said, "There is something mys-

terious and whole, which existed before heaven and earth, silent, formless, complete, and never changing. Living eternally everywhere in perfection, it is the mother of all things. I do not know its name; I call it the Way." This suggests that the world is formed from Tao.

In the last hundred years, the sudden invasion by the communist specter has created a force against nature and humanity, causing limitless agony and tragedy. It has also pushed civilization to the brink of destruction. Having committed all sorts of atrocities that violate the Tao and oppose heaven and the earth, it has become an extremely malevolent force against the universe.

"Man follows the earth, the earth follows heaven, heaven follows the Tao, and the Tao follows what is natural."ⁱⁱ In ancient China people believed in complying with, harmonizing and co-existing with heaven. Humankind integrates with heaven and earth, and exists in mutual dependence with them. The Tao of the universe does not change. The universe runs according to the Tao in an orderly manner. The earth follows the changes of heaven and therefore has four distinct seasons. By respecting heaven and the earth, humankind enjoys a harmonious life of gratitude and blessings. This is reflected in the expression "heaven's favorable timing, earth's advantageous terrain, and harmony among the people."ⁱⁱⁱ According to Chinese thought, astronomy, geography, the calendar system, medicine, literature, and even social structures all follow this understanding.

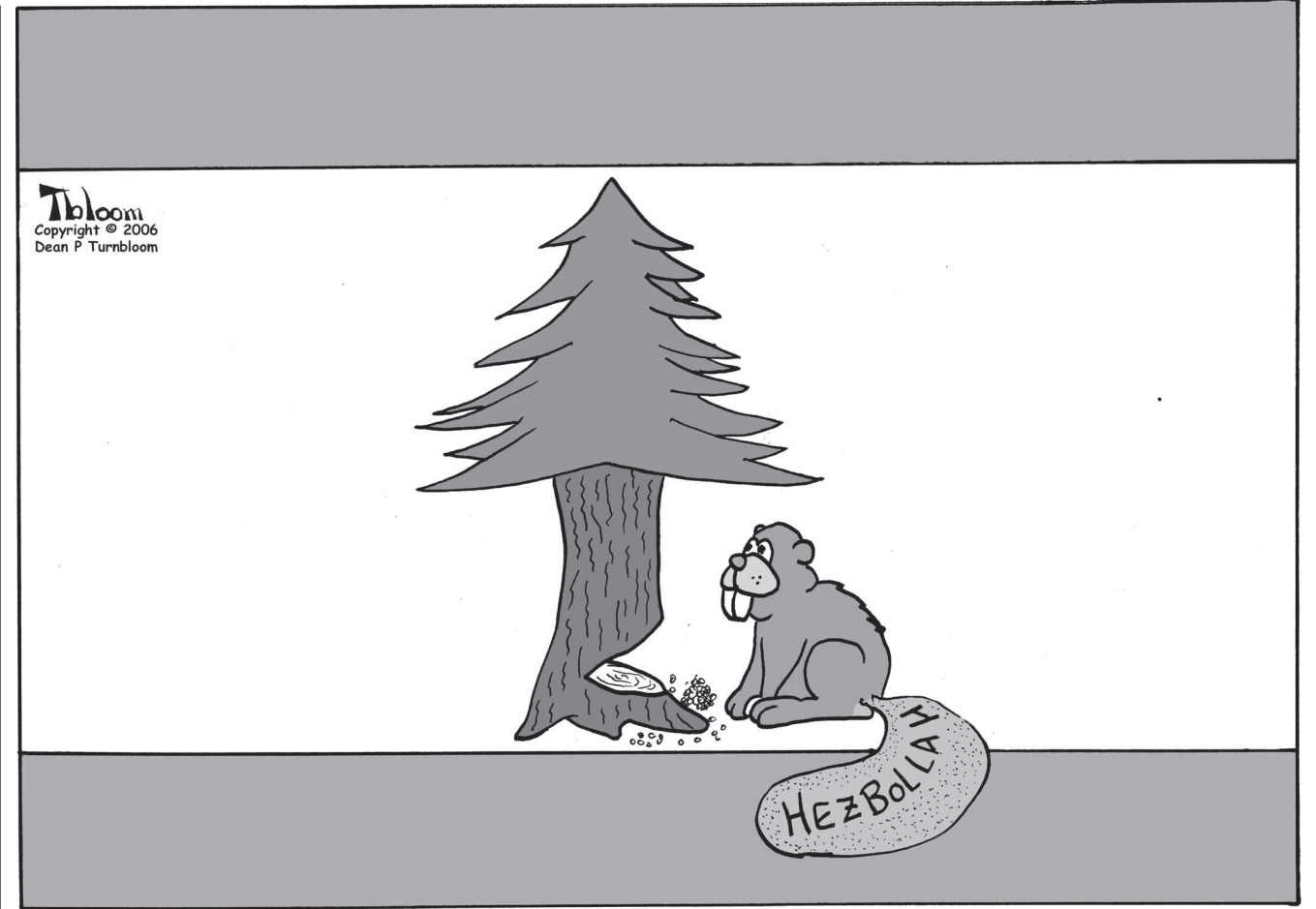
But the Communist Party promotes humans over nature and a philosophy of struggle in defiance of heaven, the earth, and nature. Mao Zedong said, "battling with heaven is endless joy, fighting with the earth is endless joy, and struggling with humanity is endless joy."^{iv} Perhaps the Communist Party did acquire real joy from these struggles, but the people have paid tremendously painful costs.

I. Struggling with People and Exterminating Human Nature

Confounding Good and Evil and Eliminating Humanity

A human being is first a natural being, and then a social being. "Men at their birth are naturally good"^v and "The heart of compassion is possessed by all people alike"^{vi} are among the many guidelines that human beings bring with them at birth, guidelines that enable them to distinguish right from wrong, and good from evil. However, for the CCP, human beings are animals or even machines. According to the CCP, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat are just material forces.

The CCP's purpose is to control people and gradually change them into rebellious, revolutionary ruffians. Marx said, "Material forces can only be overthrown by material force"; "Theory also becomes a material force as soon as it has gripped the masses."^{vii} He believed that the entire human history is nothing but the continuous evolution of human nature, and that human nature is in fact



Hezbollah Gains Strength From Refugee Misery

By **JONATHAN ERASMUS**
Special to the Epoch Times

LEBANON—Over the past few days the first of thousands of Lebanese refugees began returning home to south Lebanon and the southern suburbs of Beirut. For many it has proved to be a devastating experience as they discover their homes have been destroyed.

In South Lebanon, towns and villages around Sidon and Tyre are in ruins. In areas of southern Beirut such as Haret Hreik, Dahia, and Beir El Abed, all that remains are wrecked buildings, dust, and debris.

Zaina Almed had taken refuge with her husband and four children in a school in central Beirut during the past month. She left her home in Dahia, South Beirut, following the dropping of leaflets by the Israelis warning of imminent attacks.

Piled into a mini-bus, I travelled with her and her family back to Dahia only to discover their home had been obliterated. For Zaina, this was the final straw. She broke down in tears clutching her youngest child Younis, aged four. She told me this was her worst fear.

She said: "I prayed this had not happened. This was our home. What you see, this chaos, is all we have now."

"I need my home back. I don't know what we will do."

Her husband Abed Almed unsuccessfully tried to comfort her. He told me they had been through "too much." He said: "We have been sleeping on the floor with 20 others stuck in one room. Now we will have to go back. We have not only lost friends in this war, now we have lost our home. The Lebanese are used to suffering, but this—no, we are not."

He continued: "I feel totally helpless, my children are suffering and I can do nothing."

It is the same for thousands of Lebanese throughout the country. They will have to return to refugee hostels and camps and from there not only start to rebuild their homes, but also their lives.

Once the refugees have returned, Hezbollah can regain control

Devastation in the South

Yet for those travelling to South Lebanon, the outlook is even worse. The journey to the region is tremendously difficult with most key roads and bridges annihilated. The aid workers have only yesterday and today been able to get to some of the settlements. Conditions previously were too dangerous.

When people finally arrive, they find the villages, having been subjected to heavy Israeli attacks, now lie in ruins. The damage has wiped out entire regions, making conditions unlivable. There is the added concern for an estimated 400 as yet not located unexploded missiles, which may effectively act as landmines.

Single father of three, 52-year-old Almet Younis today returned to his village just outside Sidon for the first time since the beginning of the conflict to find his home was gone, demolished by Israeli fire. He said: "I had been told it was bad there but I didn't expect that. They [the Israelis] have destroyed everything. I am not Hezbollah, but I have been punished anyway."

"I don't know what I will tell my children, they will be heartbroken."

He added: "You tell me, please. You tell me what I have done to deserve this."

The Politics of Aid

Non-Governmental Organizations based in Beirut believe there are approximately 100,000 families in need of immediate aid. But on Wednesday Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah quoted the much more moderate figure of 18,000 families. He added that Hezbollah would provide these people with aid by "rebuilding their houses," and providing money for one year's rented accommodations.

Hezbollah has reasons for its aid effort. Their incentives are three-fold. The help they provide wins and maintains the support of the Lebanese people, especially at a time when the government does not have funds to help to the same extent as the Hezbollah, who have full Iranian and Syrian financial backing.

Their aid project also means the international community is faced with a carefully manufactured, delicate situation where the terrorist organization responsible for instigating the war with Israel is now the main relief group—and therefore somewhat untouchable.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Hezbollah knows once the refugees have returned, the land is secured and they can regain control, regardless of the movements of the 15,000 Lebanese army troops into the region in the next few days.

The army is no match for Hezbollah, and won't try to be in any case. The two are interlinked politically with Hezbollah's 25 supporters in a 124 seat Lebanese parliament capable of wielding serious power and influencing major governmental decisions.

But regardless of all this, the refugees here need the help. The focus at this time, for these people, needs to be on getting food, water and shelter. They need aid and they need it now.

under the color of law.

ⁱLao Zi (also known as Lao Tzu, Li Er or Li Dan), Chinese philosopher, lived in the 6th century BC. He is credited as the author of *Tao-Te Ching (Dao De Jing)*, the seminal book for Taoism.

ⁱⁱ*Tao-Te Ching*, Chapter 25.

ⁱⁱⁱThese expressions come from *Mencius*, Book 2.

^{iv}*Rhymes of Three (San Zi Jing)*, a tra-

ditional Chinese text for elementary education.

^v*Mencius*, Book 6.

^{vi}Karl Marx, "A Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*."

^{vii}Leon Trotsky (1879-1940), Russian communist theorist, historian, and military leader, founder of the Russian Red Army. He was murdered in Mexico City by agents of Stalin on August 22, 1940.

The Epoch Times

A Weekly Publication

Publisher: The Epoch Group
Editor-in-Chief: John Nania
Chair of the Board: Stephen Gregory

National Editors:
Nation: Genevieve Long, Vanessa Rios
World: Maria Chow, Jim Fogarty
Business: Kent Konkol, Frank Yu
Sports: Jim DeArriba, Riordan Galluccio
Opinion: Stephen Gregory
Entertainment: David Kute, Mark Gardner
Science & Technology: Andy Ellsmore
Travel, Leisure: Harri Harrison
Health: Franklin McCoy
Living: Lisa Sim, Maureen Zebian
Youth & People: Jared Pearman
Arts & Culture: Sharon Kilarski, Yvonne Marcotte
Style & Fashion: Anna Skibinsky, Elisabeth Reynolds

Edition Editors:
New York: Evan Mantyk, Tim McDevitt, Georgia Heyward, Benjamin Youngquest
Boston: Martin Fox, Connie Phillips
Chicago: Conan Milner, Maureen Zebian
Los Angeles: Dan Sanchez
San Diego: Michelle Brazeau
San Francisco: Kevin Gao, Dean Tsaggaris
Southeast U.S.: Mary Hook Silver

Washington, DC: Brian Marple, Gary Feuerberg

Comments:
To comment on something you read in The Epoch Times, please write to us at: feedback@epochtimes.com

Letter to the Editor:
To contact our editor, please write to: lettertoeditor@epochtimes.com

Submission of Articles:
The Epoch Times welcomes submissions of articles, essays, and commentaries. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and simplicity. Please include your name and daytime phone number and write to: submissions@epochtimes.com

Advertising and Subscriptions:
For advertising and subscriptions, please write to: scal@epochtimes.com

Los Angeles Address:
9550 Flair Dr., Suite 503
El Monte, CA 91731-2924
Phone: 888-853-4774
Fax: 626-401-1221
Email: scal@epochtimes.com