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ON CONTEMPORARY NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES

UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION AS A HUMAN NATURE PROBLEM¹

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ABSTRACT

This paper challenges traditional anti-corruption interventions and makes a radical claim that corruption is a human soul problem. Using Judeo-Christian philosophy as the main underpinning, the author asserts that global anti-corruption campaigns and crusades are bound to fail- *a self-fulfilling prophecy*-due to their inability to affect, influence and transform the real antecedent of external acts of corruption –the spirit of evil, mischief, sin, unrighteousness, and wickedness- dwelling in the souls each humankind. The Author argues for the integration of ethical and moral principles into anti-corruption codes as that will make the latter now have the capacity and potency to deliver, renew and salvage our inherently corrupt human consciences.

Keywords: *Judeo-Christian, anti-corruption campaigns, corrupt, human consciences, corruption.*

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The subject of corruption is one of the most widely debated and discussed topics in development literature. All over the world, researchers, practitioners, governments and development actors continually discuss the subject of corruption and implement several anti-corruption regimes but it appears that global governance actors, governments, development actors and political institutions are losing or have lost the international fight against corruption.

Corruption is one of the major hindrances to development, particularly in Africa. However, this paper deviates from the usual empirical rhetoric on corruption, which in the Author's view, have failed to address the heart of the corruption problem.

The following critical questions are worth reflecting upon.

- 1. Why are our anti-corruption crusades failing?*
- 2. Why have attempts to fight corruption by governments, religious entities, corporate bodies and Non-governmental organizations often failed?*

The answer to these questions, is that corruption is a human nature problem. But since when did corruption enter the human nature?

According to Judeo-Christian literature, corruption became integrated with the human nature over 6, 000 years ago. Indeed, corruption is as old as Satan and older than Adam. Corruption is believed to have first began in a celestial country known as heaven before it diffused to planet earth. This is perhaps the mysterious reason behind why fighting corruption appears to be a very difficult, daunting and almost impossible task for humans. How could humans attempt to address a problem that is older than them as far as the evolution of our universe is concerned? How corruption did become a human nature problem? How does our inherent corruption as humans affect our external behaviors, morals, ethics and character? How can we truly deal with corruption as humans? These are among some of the very critical questions pertaining to corruption that require serious answers.

While this paper cannot thoroughly address all the above questions due to lack of space and time, it would however, provide a general justification for corruption as a human nature problem, explain the origin of corruption and how it affects human behaviour, makes some recommendations as to

how we could truly address corruption and highlight some moral ideals we deserve as a country in relation to the subject of corruption.

1.1 The Ubiquitous Nature of the Spirit of Corruption

Corruption is omnipresent. It can be found in every human institution. It can be found at home, in schools, at the hospital, in the court room, at the police station, at the workplace, in church, at the mosque, in the Hindu temple, and in government.

1.2 Definition of Corruption

What is corruption? Corruption, superficially, represents a form of dishonest or unethical conduct by a person entrusted with a position of authority, often to acquire personal benefit.^[1] Economist Ian Senior^[2] defines corruption as an action to (a) secretly provide (b) a good or a service to a third party (c) so that he or she can influence certain actions which (d) benefit the corrupt, a third party, or both (e) in which the corrupt agent has authority.

It is important to state that most of the definitions of corruption as found in popular empirical literature are inadequate or even misconstrued, as they fail to capture the true cause and essence of the nature of corruption. For example, Myint (2000)^[3] defined corruption as the use of public office for private gain, or in other words, use of official position, rank or status by an office bearer for his own personal benefit. Following from this definition, examples of corrupt behaviour would include: (a) bribery, (b) extortion, (c) fraud, (d) embezzlement, (e) nepotism, (f) cronyism, (g) appropriation of public assets and property for private use, and (h) influence peddling.

An observation one could make regarding Myint's definition, is that it only highlights external acts of corruption while failing to deal with its inherence within the human nature. Therefore, our failure to recognize corruption as moral decadence dwelling within the human soul has affected most of our anti- corruption acts and interventions, no wonder why we have many of such acts and programs, yet acts of corruption keep increasing globally. Indeed, most definitions of corruption such as those given by the World Bank, OECD and other experts focus, to a large extent, on the external and institutional dimensions of corruption, neglecting the fact that its true abode lies within the human soul.

Using the Judeo-Christian perspective, I define corruption *as a state of spiritual and moral decadence inherent within the human soul which often manifest itself externally, in all manner of immoral, unethical, evil, mischievous, wicked, and lawless acts*².

1.3 The Secret Abode of the Spirit of Corruption

I will like, at this juncture, to look at the domicile of the spirit of corruption. A crucial question is, where does the spirit of corruption dwell? It is important to recognize that corruption is like a virus or malware on a computer's hard drive. If you want to get rid of it, you need to format the whole hard drive. If we want to deal with the corruption in our society, we need a general formatting of the hard drives of our individual souls. This is because corruption is an internal human soul problem. If you are corrupt in your soul, you cannot live a corrupt-free life. Corrupted souls.

Spirit

Corrupt people, are like wolves in sheep's clothing³. They pretend to be good outwardly but they are inwardly very dangerous. But they cannot remain hypocrites forever because sooner or later, their inherent corruption manifests externally, like the bad fruits hanging on the branches of a genetically corrupt tree.⁴

I want to emphasize that all external acts of corruption have their origin in our decayed human souls⁵. Let me therefore, distinguish between two dimensions of corruption, namely, *internal*

² Asamoah (2018). This is the Author's definition of Corruption based on a critical study of Judeo-Christian literature.

³ Mat 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

⁴ Jewish Teacher, Jesus of Nazareth addresses the issue succinctly:

Luk 6:43 For a good tree does not bring forth corrupt fruit; neither does a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Luk 6:44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. Luk 6:45 **A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth that which is evil:** for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

⁵ Mar 7:14 And when he had called all the people *unto him*, he said unto them, Hearken unto me every one *of you*, and understand: Mar 7:15 **There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.** Mar 7:16 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. Mar 7:17 And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable. Mar 7:18 And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, *it* cannot defile him; Mar 7:19 Because it entereth not into **his heart**⁵, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? Mar 7:20 And he said, **That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. Mar 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men**, proceed **evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders**, Mar 7:22 **Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye,**

corruption and *external corruption*. *Internal corruption*, refers to the inherent moral decadence and naturally inherited human tendency for being corrupt and evil that is deeply rooted in our individual human souls. *Eternal corruption*, however, alludes to corrupt, evil, wicked, immoral and unethical acts we commit, which are just physical manifestations of the inherent corruption of our souls. And it appears that most empirical rhetoric on corruption identify and address only some aspects of this external corruption I am talking about, neglecting its true cause, which is within our souls.

Let me explain briefly, how internal corruption leads to external acts of corruption. Firstly, before one would commit an external act of corruption, the seed of it should have been conceived within their heart, sowed into their soul, until it grows, and matures⁶ in their souls. The soul comprises the *emotions, reasoning, imagination, memory, conscience* and *will*. An individual whose conscience is not dead, usually goes through periods of battles in their soul before their will and emotions finally succumb to whatever corrupt deed they had been contemplating in their memories, imaginations or reasoning.

External acts of corruption, are therefore, first and foremost, issues of ethics and morality related to the souls of individuals. That is why we need to seek real understanding of the nature of corruption as a human soul problem, by appreciating how it functions within, and controls individual behavior, before we think about the issue of corruption within an institutional context, not forgetting that institutions are made up of individuals and not the other way round.

We need to appreciate that if our institutions are corrupt, it is the individuals who are corrupt not the institutions themselves. If our country is corrupt, it is the citizens of the country that are corrupt, not the country itself. If our governments are corrupt, it is the individual government officials working in there that are corrupt and not the systems of governance themselves.

blasphemy, pride, foolishness: Mar 7:23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

⁶ This process of development and manifestation of corruption is described in the following verses of scripture.

Jas 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

Jas 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Jas 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

I must state that every external act of corruption represents a violation against the Divine will and the principle of love that must bind us together as one humankind. The Divine will is revealed in the Divine Laws and Commandments as found in the Torah, Mishnah, Talmud, and Gospels.

It is important for us to understand that the true foundation of all of law is to stimulate love in people towards their Creator and fellow man. Therefore, if we want our anti-corruption laws, campaigns and regulations to work, we need to establish them on principles that seek to ultimately lead people to love and revere the Creator and also to love their neighbor as themselves. Anything short of this would be an exercise of futility.

This is where I think we have failed because it seems that we formulate laws and regulations dealing with corruption with no Divine foundation. It looks as if we believe we can deal with corruption all by ourselves without the help of the Divine. But our weaknesses never cease recurring to us that we have serious need of a Savior to help us fix our inherent corruption problem⁷.

1.4 Exploring the True Origin of Corruption: Human and Extra- Terrestrial Corruption

I pose yet another critical question at this juncture. Where did the spirit of corruption come from and how did it enter the human race? According to Judeo Christian literature, the spirit of corruption originated from an incorruptible, celestial country called heaven, when a spiritual angelic being is purported to have coveted the very power, position and status of the Creator, because of pride, self-exaltation, and self-centeredness. After his ejection from heaven, through war, this corrupt

⁷ Judeo-Christian literature often employs certain terms that are synonymous with the concept of corruption, whether it is in its internal or external form. Such terms include "original sin", "evil", "iniquity", "perversion", "wickedness", "transgression", "the man of sin", "the sinful nature", "the old man" etc. These terms always seem to point to the fact that corruption is deeply rooted in our hearts. However, the corruption in our hearts cannot be easily diagnosed by any human factor unless it manifest itself externally. The list following, though not exhaustive, represents the most common external manifestations the corruption within our souls: *Greed, Selfishness, adulteries, fornications, murders, crime, genocide, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, Telling of lies, lasciviousness, envy, cheating, blasphemy, pride, arrogance, ignorance, abortion, personal uncleanness, environmental pollution, Idolatry, Witchcraft, hatred, anger, unforgiveness, strife, seduction, Heresies, drunkenness, wars and conflicts etc.* This list only illustrates the external manifestations of the corruption inherent in our souls. The inherent corruption in our souls causes every humankind to want to do that which is always contrary to the Divine will and nature.

arch angel decided to pursue the human race to corrupt and if possible, destroy it.⁸ How the spirit of pride, self-centeredness and self-exaltation entered the being of the Devil is hard to decipher, even by advanced scholars and theologians. But it is believed by some that it might be related to a sort of natural tendency that exists within a created being that has been given the freedom of choice by its Creator, to potentially run the risk of exceeding the limits of their authority or power domain. That problem has been captured today by the phrase, *power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely*. For lack of space and time, however, the link between power and corruption cannot be discussed.

1.5 The origin of Human Corruption

So when did the human nature become inherently corrupt? Human corruption is recorded to have begun when the first human species (Adam and Eve) encountered this corrupt archangel, Satan more than six thousand years ago, according to the Biblical chronology⁹. The ultimate effect of the encounter between our first parents and the Devil was the corruption of the human soul or nature. Since human corruption was caused by the Devil, we can boldly say that human corruption is not as old as Adam, it is as old as Satan¹⁰.

⁸ Refer to Ezekiel Chapter 28, Isaiah Chapter 14 and Revelation Chapter 12 of the Holy Bible.

⁹ But here again, Judeo-Christian literature attributes the fall of the human species directly to that old corrupted arch angel, Satan. This corrupted arch angel, is said to have appeared in a garden, where the first human couple, Adam and Eve dwelt. Through cunning deceit, deception, trickery, and lies, he lured the first human parents into the same delusion of self-exaltation, pride, and self-centeredness, for which reason, he (Satan), had been expelled from the presence of the Most High God, in the celestial country known as heaven. Satan succeeded in making our first parents violate the Divine commandment that had been given them by their Creator and instead pursued self-gratification, and personal aggrandizement, albeit under the Devil's deception. By the same token of self-exaltation, pride, and self-centeredness, our first parents, having succumbed to the deception of the Devil were also expelled from the presence of the Almighty, the place symbolically referred to in ancient Judeo-Christian literature, as the Garden of Eden.

¹⁰ We must note, however, that the devil is not dead, because the Creator has still given him some room to operate. Is it not reasonable to think that the devil will do everything possible to deceive all of humanity, just like he did to Adam and Eve? Certainly, just as Adam and Eve did not likely know at the time that they were treading on dangerous grounds, through their conversation with the devil, which took place in their minds, so many today do not seem to understand that the devil is seeking after their souls, to pervert and destroy them. One of the core assignments of the devil is to deceive, kill, and destroy human souls¹⁰. We need to be very serious and awake so we are not deceived in the spirits of our minds by this corrupt adversary, the Devil.

1.6 The Human Nature and the Roots of Corruption

It is necessary to explain some few things about the human nature and its link with the spirit of corruption. Every human kind is tripartite in nature consisting of spirit, soul and body. The spirit is the component by which we relate to our Creator. The soul is that aspect of man by which we relate with our spirits and our social environments. The body helps us, through the senses, to relate with the physical world around us. The spirit is created in the likeness and resemblance of the Creator¹¹. The soul or the mind consists of the will, memory, reasoning, imagination, emotions, and conscience. The will is the center for decision-making. The memory is a storage space for keeping information either of short, medium or long term nature. The reasoning faculty is the seat of rational thinking. The imagination gives us the capacity for vision, creative thinking and innovation. The emotions is the region for mostly irrational behaviour and it manifests in the forms of feelings, which could be of good or evil nature, depending on how we use them and how they affect others. The conscience is an intrinsic moral judge, an internal judiciary system living in the soul of every human being that tells them *a priori*, whether an action they want to embark upon is good or bad, corruptible or incorruptible, positive or negative. The conscience, should be ideally alive, and fully functioning to help the individual desist from immorality, unethical behaviour and corrupt acts. However, the conscience becomes weakened every time one wants to commit an act of corruption, was prompted by the conscience and the person failed to heed to the counsel of the inner conscience. The conscience can therefore deteriorate from weak, to weaker, to seared, and to dead. When the conscience dies in a man, the man becomes what Judeo Christian literature refer to as an apostate or a reprobate soul. A reprobate soul can no longer distinguish between right or wrong. In fact, in the dictionary of an apostate or reprobate soul, there is no such thing as wrong. Everything is right in the eyes of a reprobate soul: Adultery is right. Fornication is right. Homosexuality is right. Murder is right. Theft is right. Genocide is right. Bribery is right. Lying is right. Corruption is right.

It appears that the extent to which we can deal with the inherent corruption within our individual souls depends on the degree to which our consciences respond to the Divine law, Divine will and the principles of good moral standards and right ethical conduct. Therefore, if we want to truly deal with the root causes of corruption, then we should begin to think of programs that are geared towards the revitalization, resuscitation and resurrection of dead consciences dwelling in living

¹¹ See Genesis 1:26-27.

human bodies. We must also think of initiatives that will strengthen weak consciences and make them subject to the Divine law and will.

There are indeed individuals working in organizations, schools, government, media, and the fields of medicine, science, economics, accounting, finance, and law who are corrupt. In fact, there has been cases, in our country and elsewhere, of high ranking officials in the judiciary having been caught red handed engaging in corrupt behaviour. The question is, did these judges not know the difference between what is right and what is wrong? How could judges, who were supposed to be manifesting the highest level of ethical and moral perfection fail us to that extent?

We have also heard about other cases of sexual corruption and child abuse amongst members of the clergy coming from catholic, orthodox, Pentecostal and charismatic circles. How could people who claim to preach about God, the ultimate standard of moral perfection, find themselves doing things that the Divine law prohibits?

What about corporate corruption? When you remember the corporate scandals in Europe and America in the early 2000's that led the collapse of Enron, WorldCom, Xerox, Tyco and auditing firm, Arthur and Anderson, etc., you will quickly appreciate how pervasive the issue of corruption is. Did the corrupt CEOs, financial managers, financial accountants and Auditors involved in those scandals not know about ethical standards for professional practice?

I think the time has come for us to realize, that written codes of ethics, professional standards, laws and regulations alone, can never deal with the problem of corruption which is inherent in our souls. First century Theologian, Paul, puts it this way, *....for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life*¹². This statement implies that we cannot effectively solve the corruption problem and achieve the highest standards of righteousness and ethical conduct in society by merely focusing on written codes of laws and regulations to the neglect of tackling the issue from its very foundation, the human heart. The energy or inner empowerment for right living, comes from the soul of man within not from external written codes of laws and commandments. In effect, we need the principles of morality and ethics to be written in the hearts of people not just in legal documents of laws, rules and regulations. We need the law to written in our hearts, not on mere paper.

¹² [2Co 3:6](#) *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

We do not need any more anti-corruption codes. We do need the restoration of our corrupt hearts. We do not need any more anti-corruption regulations. We do need the total consecration of our corrupt souls. We do not need any more anti-corruption laws. We do need the salvation of our corrupt consciences. We do not need any more anti-corruption acts. We do need the renewal of our corrupt minds.

As for corruption amongst government officials, we are all eye-witnesses. We have seen governments misappropriate state funds for private benefits and we have seen some government officials sometimes amend the law or constitution, in order to enforce self-preservation and individual protectionism. Time and space will preclude us from looking at how military dictatorships have ruined and stagnated development of our country and many others on the continent. But one thing is clear, that all forms of government, whether in military regimes or democratic dispensations, are all plagued with the problem of corruption, which is essentially inherent in the souls of the individuals serving within whatever capacities as government officials, whether they are heads of states, presidents, vice presidents, members of parliament, senators, ministers, congressmen or assemblymen.

Are the ordinary citizens of the nation better off than the leaders when it comes to corruption? Not at all. There is a plethora of evidences, stories, and cases of several citizens involved in child abuse, genocide, murder, rapes, theft, bribery, fornication, adultery, to mention just a few.

What shall we say to these things? Is it not obvious that the human soul is corrupt? Indeed, everyone is corrupt, not one is righteous, for all are corrupt and have fallen short of the Divine standard of righteousness and have serious need of Divine help. We need supernatural help, not foreign aid¹³.

I believe, that these incidences of corruption and their ubiquitous nature are happening to draw our attention to the fact that we cannot possibly help ourselves as humankind, by trying to

¹³ *Rom 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;*

Rom 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Rom 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

formulate our own laws and governing systems, some of which are even, sometimes, against the very law of the Creator. Is it really possible and right, for inherently corrupt human beings, to attempt dealing with the problem of corruption without the help of our Creator?¹⁴ *Can the blind lead the blind without both of them falling into the ditch?*¹⁵ How can people who are corrupt in themselves pretend to be fighting corruption without the help of the Most High, Who is the only One that is truly Incorruptible, Righteous, Holy and the Ultimate standard of Moral and Ethical perfection? These are questions we all have to reflect upon very seriously.

¹⁴ The Author asserts that the new age movement's philosophical paradigms of materialism, secularism, humanism, and atheism, which reject anything Divine, and argue for the possibility of a global utopia without the Creator, is a mere mirage, or at best, a vision of grandeur. The Author believes that as we continue to formulate more rules, prudential regulations, laws, and codes of ethics, underpinned by the axioms, of atheism, humanism, secularism and materialism, the more corrupt our societies would be. The Author suggests that our societies begin to think of humbly returning to our Creator and seeking his help in the governance of our socio-economic systems and institutions. He further points out, that the concept of governance and government, as we are practicing today, was actually conferred on us by our Creator and His original intent was for us to govern in subjection to His Divine will and nature, instead of acting as though we were independent of Him. Moreover, the author believes that true governance and corrupt free development is never achievable without the help of the Creator. Ancient Jewish philosopher and prophet, Moses wrote:

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. The Creator's original purpose for humankind was for us draw on the originally incorruptible image and likeness of the Creator within us, to exercise have dominion over planet earth and its terrestrial, aquatic and celestial or atmospheric resources. The word dominion is from the Hebrew *radah* or *mamlakak* and it means, *governance, leadership, control, delegated power or authority, administration, rulership, conservation, agency power, development, growth, government, management, and optimization*. Hence, through leadership, and governance of the planet can only be achieved when we rely on the Creator's incorruptible image and likeness within. Unfortunately, ever since the fall of man in Genesis 3, the image and likeness of the Creator within us became corrupt. True governance will, therefore, remain an eternal illusion to humans as long as our inherent natures, the originally incorruptible image and likeness of the Creator within us, has become corrupt and evil. Hence, we need to return to the Creator's own program, the gospel preached by Jesus Christ, whose ultimate goal, is the restoration of our corrupt human souls. The Creator's restoration of our corrupt souls will happen when Christ, through the gospel, causes the incorruptible Image and likeness of the Creator, known in Judeo-Christian literature as the Holy (or Incorruptible) Spirit to dwell in the hearts of human kind. It is only when this is done that the inherent corruption could be dealt with.

¹⁵ *Luk 6:39* And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?

1.7 Effect of Adam and Eve's Encounter with the Corrupt Extra-Terrestrial Being¹⁶

It appears that the spirit of corruption inherent in the human soul also has some genetic foundations. Hence, every child is born with an inherent corruption that might also be found somewhere in their DNA¹⁷. We see early external manifestations of this inherent corruption in children through acts of stealing, lying, cheating in exams etc. If the child is not properly guided by parents and shaped by society positively, such a child could grow to become a corrupt adult that would constitute a nuisance to socio-economic development. Therefore, socialization processes for children within the family, our schools and religious organizations are very critical, in helping minimize the tendencies for outward expressions of acts of corruption. *We need to **train up** our children in the way they should go: and when they are old, they will not depart from it*¹⁸

¹⁶ It appears that the encounter between our first human parents and that corrupt archangel Satan, may have implanted the spiritual seeds of corruption into their very human nature and genetic code. Hence, since the famous story of Genesis 3, when our first parents metamorphosed from pure, clean, incorruptible souls into impure, unclean, and corruptible souls, the seeds of corruption are always vertically transmitted, via the human DNA¹⁶ into the very soul or consciousness of all of Adam's descendants. These seeds of corruption, once transferred from our first parents to their offspring, became integrated into successive children's human nature, conferring on each of their souls, the natural capacity and tendency for pride, self-exaltation and self-centeredness. Hence, everyone is born basically, selfish, and evil by nature, alienated from the Divine nature and will, and intrinsically corrupt¹⁶.

¹⁷ This implies, the Author argues, that the successful sperm cell, out of a potential 500 million, on the average, from a healthy man that ends up fertilizing the woman's egg after copulation, most likely contains corrupt DNA. The resulting zygote is also corrupt by nature, as it contains genetic information within itself that would later, after birth, naturally predispose that child, growing into an adult, to committing external acts of corruption, if no proper training, education, direction, and correction is given to the child at an early stage. The Author's view is in sync with that of Ancient Jewish prophet and King David, who wrote: *Behold, I was shapen (formed) in iniquity; and in sin (corruption) did my mother conceive me (Psa 51:5).*

¹⁸ *Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* The right training, given at a fairly early stage in the lives of individual children, could help them minimize their tendencies for corruption in later adult life. This is possible, if the children are taught to know the difference between what is good and evil, and they grow over time, and through experience, to internalize and consciously adopt sound ethical and moral principles and good values, by which they live their lives. The desire for children and youth to live a morally upright life, would be highly boosted if our existing social structures had incentives, for rewarding morally upright young people.

The fight against corruption must, therefore, begin with the restoration of the basic and most important unit of our society –the family. We need true fathers in our homes, and patient mothers, who would begin to see themselves as the agents of the Creator on earth, helping in dealing with the problem of corruption inherent in our human nature. If parents begin to see their parenting role not as a mere obligation, but as a higher calling, I believe we could train and raise up a new society where corruption is relatively minimal.

1.8 Summary and Conclusion

In summary, I will say that corruption is indeed inherent in our souls. Every human being born of a human male and female will naturally inherit the nature of corruption. It is a fact of life. But we cannot deal with this human defect, by formulating and implementing external laws and written codes alone without humbly seeking genuine help from our Creator.

In concluding the article, I pose a last but one question. How can we effectively address the corruption that is inherent in our souls?

1. We need to return to our Creator for help-Theoretically, the only Agent that can help us address our inherent corruption is the Incorruptible Creator. We will never be truly successful in our fight against corruption if we ignore the Creator, who alone is Righteous.

2. We need to intensify Ethics and Morality Focused Training-We need to intensify ethics and morality training in our educational and governing institutions.

3. We need to embrace the Divine Law-We need to uphold the Divine laws on morality and ethics just as we respect our own constitutions.

4. We need to live by the Divine Nature of Love-We need to constantly seek help from the Creator to aid us renew, redeem, and salvage our corrupt souls so we can truly walk in the Divine nature of love.

5. We need to always remember that there is a Divine Reward for Righteous Souls -We must realize that there are eternal rewards for every soul who lives in righteousness.

6. We need to always live our lives conscious of the Divine punishment against corrupt

souls-We must realize, that there is a final day of judgment when the Creator will subject every man's deeds to His Divine Standards. Those found wanting will be punished¹⁹. That means if you escape punishment in your life time, you may never escape fair judgment from the courts of the Creator.

7. We need our consciences to be revitalized and renewed

-We must constantly renew our minds and evaluate our actions within the light of the Divine law and ask the Creator to help us purge our consciences from corrupt acts that lead to death.

8. We need to obey the Laws of the Country that are in sync with natural laws and our

consciences -We must discipline our hearts and minds to abide by the laws of our dear country.

¹⁹ Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. This is the final divine punishment to be meted out to all corrupt souls and their final abode and eternal destination is a lake of fire that burns with sulphur and brimstone.

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^[1]Corruption can be illegal, but also can involve legal conduct in many countries. See [Black's Law Dictionary](#) for legal definition. See also worldbank.org paper noting that corruption "may involve collusion between parties typically both from the public and private sectors, and may be legal in many countries.

^[2]Senior, I. (2006). *Corruption – The World's Big C.*, Institute of Economic Affairs, London.

^[3] Myint, U. (2000). Corruption: Causes, Consequences And Cures. *Asia-Pacific Development Journal*, 7(2), 33-58.

