

Legal vs. Moral

Society is sick
when what is legal
is immoral,
but what is moral
is illegal.

Abortion is legal,
yet immoral.
Slavery is immoral,
yet once was legal.

Protest, assembly, and travel
are moral imperatives;
but in repressive societies
they are illegal activities.

Unfair trade practices
are usually very legal.
What they do to
underdeveloped countries
is downright immoral.

Prejudice is now illegal;
that doesn't mean
all think it's immoral.

Legality come from
the law on the books;
morality stems from
the law in our hearts.

Just because there's
no law against it,
doesn't mean I may do it.
Just because there is
a law permitting it,
doesn't mean I should do it.

"You can't legislate morality,"
they say. But I say:
it's a sad society where
the only guide of morality
is legislation.

Are murder and theft merely
illegal
and not, more profoundly,
immoral?
If so, are we wrong in
legislating morality?

For the legalist morality means:
"don't get caught,"
not "what I ought."

The force of law is coercion;
morality relies on conscience.
Morality looks to what is desirable;
legality regards what is acceptable.
Laws enjoin minimum compliance;
morals exhort optimum
performance.

The need for morality is
greatest
where the efficacy of legality is
least.

True, we cannot have a nation
without just laws;
but why do we think
we can get by
without deep morals?

Yet, there is a reality
higher and more crucial than
both legality and morality.
It is called *spirituality*.

For, when a society
sells out its soul,
it produces selective morality
and oppressive legality!

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June 7, 1992

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