



Propriety of the Erich Fromm Document Center. For personal use only. Citation or publication of material prohibited without express written permission of the copyright holder.

Eigentum des Erich Fromm Dokumentationszentrums. Nutzung nur für persönliche Zwecke. Veröffentlichungen – auch von Teilen – bedürfen der schriftlichen Erlaubnis des Rechteinhabers.

The Atlanta Journal THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

Post Office Box 4689

Atlanta, Georgia 30302

(404) 526-5151

Director of Publicity
Macmillan Publishing Co.
866 Third Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Publisher:

Thank you for sending a copy of your book. Here is our review that ran in The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution on Sunday, April 13, 1986 .

Sincerely,

Don O'Briant
Book Editor

4/13 For the Love of Life.

Erich Fromm, Macmillan, \$14.95.

Benevolent ideas presented with open-hearted sincerity are the fabric in this series of radio talks Erich Fromm presented a few years before his death in 1980. His subjects are wide-ranging — affluence and ennui in our society, dreams, and even a discussion of Hitler — but the presentation lacks vitality. In a discussion of sadists, for example, Fromm says out that sadists do not feel pity; they have a preoccupation with order; they treat people like things. What do these statements offer in themselves except definition? What is the grief and what is the fear that would cause a human being to live in such distortion?



Erich Fromm

In another chapter Hitler is described as narcissistic, as one who needed applause and power. Indeed these characteristics may be true of the man, but in the greater reality seem paltry when set beside the larger issues that a discussion of Hitler presents.

Fromm suggests that we resist not only the great tyrannies like Hitler's but the smaller ones such as the kind that reduce man to a cog in the bureaucratic machinery. Certainly this advice has value, but seems disarmingly unsatisfactory as a conclusion to a discussion of Hitler.

Fromm says, "I believe a human being is fully himself only when he expresses himself, when he makes use of the powers within him." In this book ideas are stated, but where is the human personality who wrote them? Without the very factor Fromm celebrates — that of the self — this book is ponderous rather than profound.

— Ellen Galanty