

Some Effects of Anger

A poem by Rolf Auer

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Anger alienates and scares people.

It allows people to be
easily manipulated.
As a result
systemic persecution
and tyrannies
can more readily take place.

Racism, sexism, homophobia,
and other forms of hatred
are more common
than should be allowed.

Domestic violence
tends to escalate.

Perhaps worst of all,
anger has the effect
of negating social justice.
Look around the Downtown Eastside:
the evidence is there for all to see.

Anger promotes inequality;
poverty is the direct result.
Subsistence income assistance rates,
drug addiction,
substandard housing—
these are some of the
manifestations of poverty.

Anger promotes discrimination;
well-off comfy-womfy people
look down on panhandlers
look down on bidders
look down on sex trade workers
look down on drug addicts
look down on poor people—
it's so nice to have someone to blame
for the failings of your economic system.

Anger promotes class warfare;
similar to inequality and discrimination,
class warfare typically means
the anger or hatred that
the upper class has
for the lower or lowest classes,
in effect blaming these for everything
that's wrong with society
when in actuality it is
the rich who are to blame;
with their continued calls for
more attempts at gentrification
more tax cuts for themselves
and more social spending cuts
leading to economic serfdom
for those far less fortunate.
Instead of looking down on the lower classes,
the upper classes should be looking up
to see where things have actually gone wrong.

What is needed is less anger.
What is needed is more understanding.
What is needed is more love.