



# THE PERILS OF INDIFFERENCE

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**What is indifference?** In terms of the history of the word, it means ‘no difference.’ A strange and unnatural state in which the lines blur between light and darkness, dusk and dawn, crime and punishment, cruelty and kindness, good and evil.

What are its courses and inescapable results? Is it a way of thinking? Is there a way of thinking where indifference is fine? Can one possibly view indifference as a good quality? Is it necessary at times to practice it simply to stay mentally healthy, live normally, enjoy a fine meal and a glass of wine, as the world around us experiences violent changes?

Of course, indifference can be tempting. It is so much easier to look away from victims. It is so much easier to avoid such rude interruptions to our work, our dreams, our hopes. It is, after all, awkward, troublesome, to be involved in another person's pain and loss of hope.

Yet, for the person who is indifferent, his or her neighbor is not important. And, therefore, their lives are meaningless. Their hidden or even visible pain is of no interest. Indifference makes other people into something less than human.

