

CLEARING PATHS TO FREEDOM: HANNAH ARENDT

Born into a family of non-practising Jews (Hannover, 1906 / New York, 1975), she studies philosophy with Heidegger and graduates with Jaspers. Forced to flee to France from Nazi Germany in 1933 and then to America in 1940 due to the racial laws. She works as a journalist and university lecturer in political theory.

THE UNANIMITY OF OPINION, so typical of our modern **MASS AGE**, destroys public life because it tends to totally eliminate **THOSE WHO DIFFER**. Mass unanimity is not the result of agreement, it is an expression of **fanaticism** and **lack of thought**.

THE BANALITY OF EVIL → H. Arendt tries to peer into the abyss of totalitarian rule in the Twentieth century:

The TRIAL for Eichmann - the Nazi criminal who arranged for millions of Jews to be transferred to concentration camps and who is an ideal **subject** for **A TOTALITARIAN REGIME**, being an archetypal law-observing citizen. Arendt sees him like many mediocre men who dare not contemplate alternative solutions, preferring to follow the dictates of law. Therefore, Eichmann blindly obeyed the **imperative** of the new system: his **CONSCIENCE** was like an **EMPTY VESSEL**, incapable of **JUDGING for itself**.

Therefore, **"THINKING FOR OURSELVES AND CULTIVATING DOUBTS: THESE ARE THE WEAPONS WE MUST USE TO DEFEND OURSELVES."** - ANNA VIVARELLI

A **WOMAN** who teaches the difficult and powerful art of saying **NO**, **ACTING** and taking the **INITIATIVE** by using **THINKING** to prevent **EVIL**.