

EDITORIAL

Act of Evil

E. F. Shumacher once remarked in one of his famous books to the effect that people were sometimes willing to die economically rather than go on living uneconomically, meaning that even though they knew something was bad for them, yet they went on doing it for economic reason. That, however, was a noble act compared to what is happening today. More and more people now seem to believe in living economically, even though in doing so others may die or suffer.

An example of this happened recently in Chacheungsao, an agricultural province near Bangkok. In an attempt to save cost, a liquid chemical waste was sneakily siphoned into a communal pond and rice paddies, permanently fouling both the paddies and the source of clean water for a community, rendering it cursed with hardships thereafter. In another incidence, another kind of industrial effluent was pumped directly from the trucks into a city underground drain, unknown to the police at first of course.

This sort of evil act nowadays seems to become more common in this country, especially in those provinces in the vicinity of an industrial estate. However, the practice is not limited locally to within a country like Thailand or other countries of similar rank. As is well known, a few so-called 'developed' nations have actually done it before. However, since they know better, they commit a badder sin by trying to get rid of their wastes anywhere in the world except in their own homes.

The Buddha taught us 2600 years ago to do three things: do good, avoid doing evil, and try to purify your mind. The people in his time seemed to fully believe in him and act accordingly. Even a hundred-odd years ago, people still seemed to believe in him. The steady decline of our faith in him seemed to uncannily coincide with the entering of modern science and technology into the world. Could this be just coincidence? Or could one thing be the cause of the other?

When you are angered by someone or something, are they to blame for your anger? When you have lustful thoughts, do you blame the sexual objects? And when you are possessed by greed, where does the greed come from? —“Show me the clues to these puzzles, and I'll show you the answers to the above questions.”