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October 26, 2000

The Inquisitor's Love for Humanity *The Grand Inquisitor*

The Inquisitor in Dostoevsky's *The Grand Inquisitor* maintains throughout the chapter that his actions are more loving toward humanity than those of Christ are. The Inquisitor argues that Christ's refusal of the three temptations in the wilderness by the dread spirit were bad overall for the whole of humanity because it did nothing but further increase humanity's freedom from the obligation to believe and worship Him. According to the Inquisitor, man prefers peace and even death to the freedom of choice in the knowledge of good and evil. Because of this, the Inquisitor is very critical of Christ's decisions on the matter. The Inquisitor, after spending most of his life "in the wilderness" attempting to attain enough goodness to be accepted, realized that he could not bear earning favor while at the same time knowing that millions of other people would never be able to attain favor, due to their weaker nature. As a result, he went to join the ranks of "those who have corrected Thy work." Involved in this decision was the deception of the weaker millions in order that they may be without sin, and therefore happy during their lives. In at least ten different places in the chapter, the Inquisitor explains that the reason he does this is because he cares for humanity and wants them to be happy, even at the expense of taking on their sins himself. Ivan also says that this character of his loved all of humanity all his life. It appears from the text that the Inquisitor does in fact believe that he loves humanity more than Christ does.