THE CLEAN SWORD

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The Clean Sword by Lynn Harold Hough

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LYNN HAROLD HOUGH

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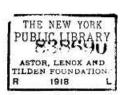


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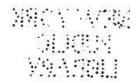
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TO MY FRIEND CRARLES MORSE ALLEN



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CHAPTER I

THE UNCLEAN SWORD

A sword has no character until you use it. There is nothing fundamentally good about it. There is nothing fundamentally bad about it. It is ethically neutral until it is drawn and wielded; and then the cause gives character to the sword.

Right at the outset we must meet those who would challenge these statements. The challenge comes from two groups. One declares that the sword is bad quite apart from the cause in which it is used. A good cause cannot make a good sword. The sword is inherently evil. The other declares that the sword is good quite apart from the cause. A bad cause never makes a bad sword. The sword is inherently good in spite of the cause. The first group preaches peace at any price. The second group preaches war at any price. And each of these two groups has quite lost ethical perspective and the sound sense of values.

The claim that the sword is in itself evil