

Lev Neymotin

I often wonder how profound thinking and narrative can co-exist with crude and even profane thinking and behavior in the same individual. This applies both to social sphere and, almost shockingly, to the world of religion, where people, like General Patton can be both deeply religious and as prominently profane. After reading the article in the Wall Street Journal about General Patton, which opened up very graphically his complex professional profile, achievements in and contribution to the WW2 effort fighting Nazi Germany and, importantly, his personality, and, in my eyes, the tragic end of his life, in bitterness, again in my eyes, unearned. This bitter end was influenced to a large extent by my other hero, General Eisenhower.

Having read about Patton, I started thinking about my friends and people I know. Immediately, one came to mind, let's refer to him as Mr. H. He is an accomplished business leader, ran a very successful and multi-faceted company in high tech, medical devices, environmental technologies, etc. He is pretty profane and cynical, in words and views he expresses, not in actions or behavior, but very straight talking, and not choosing words too carefully, to put it mildly. And yet, when it comes to ethical behavior, and crucially, to his perception of God and following in His paths, he is General Patton!

And I have others too, in the same "profound & profane", PP- category.... In your discussion please mention Winston Churchill, Donald Trump, and others as part of the PP group.

As a summary of my observations, perhaps such people operate on the extreme ends of spectrum of human personalities, where one extreme is so intense, it needs to be counterweighted with the other extreme to keep them sane.

And that's exactly what keeps them human.

And humane!

How intriguing...