

“And this I believe: that the free, exploring mind of the individual human is the most valuable thing in the world.

And this I would fight for: the freedom of the mind to take any direction it wishes, undirected.

And this I must fight against: any idea, religion, or government which limits or destroys the individual.

This is what I am and what I am about.”

John Steinbeck, *East of Eden*, 1952

It is not often that a writer can so clearly yet concisely pour his heart, mind and soul into his ink as Steinbeck has done in this, his credo. For this, for me, he stands high on his courage, head and shoulders above the crowd.

I am humbled by his genius, and profoundly grateful to him for having so expressed his understanding of his world and mine in such a way that even my narrow intellect can perceive, be it but dimly, at least some of his insight.

But I am bold enough to add my own corollary:

It is only through the sovereignty of the free, untrammelled individual mind that humanity may achieve its fully-possible destiny of oneness with the power and glory of our universe.