Pedagogy of the Oppressed Chapter 1 Summary

Understanding the concepts of humanization and dehumanization may be challenging to attain consciously for those engrossed in dehumanization. Humanization is confirmed by a struggle to attain or obtain freedoms for the oppressed from dehumanization linked to the emancipation of labor, overcoming alienation, and affirmation to be worthy. Thus, dehumanization as a plausible vocation is a severe distortion and leads to despair. If the oppressed desire to be less human in modeling their oppressors, they will fail to be restorers of humanity. Only the weakness of the oppressed can be enough to free the oppressed and the oppressors. Moreover, giving the oppressor grace provides pseudo-vulnerable generosity, which only mandates failure and permeates continued despair, poverty, and death.

Pedagogy to address the oppressed situation not controlled by the systemic political oppressive education but instead by oppressed-led educational projects will mold the euphemistic but potent guidance towards a humane society. Additionally, the oppressed must identify and stop the violence of the oppressors against them. The oppressed are never the initiators of violence, for that is why they are in torment mentally and physically. Furthermore, when the oppressed choose to fight back, to pursue their right to be human, they are labeled, among other things, "savages." Given an attempt of the oppressed to become an "ideal" oppressor, this pursuit will never equate to the original oppressor regime of casting others as inhuman and oppressed. Thus, according to Fireire, the reversal of roles from oppressed to "ideal oppressor" creates a convoluted, nonhumanistic bureaucracy. Oppressors cannot truly accept the freedom of the oppressed, even if temporarily successful, being accustomed to generational monetary and physical privileges. Oppressors must have monetary domination sustained by any means necessary. They must have constant control so they will remain the sadistic, driven oppressor, the denier of freedom.