

sharing
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In this issue:

Page 2

**Which Character's Philosophy is
Closest to Your Own?**

Page 3

What's the Price of Salvation?

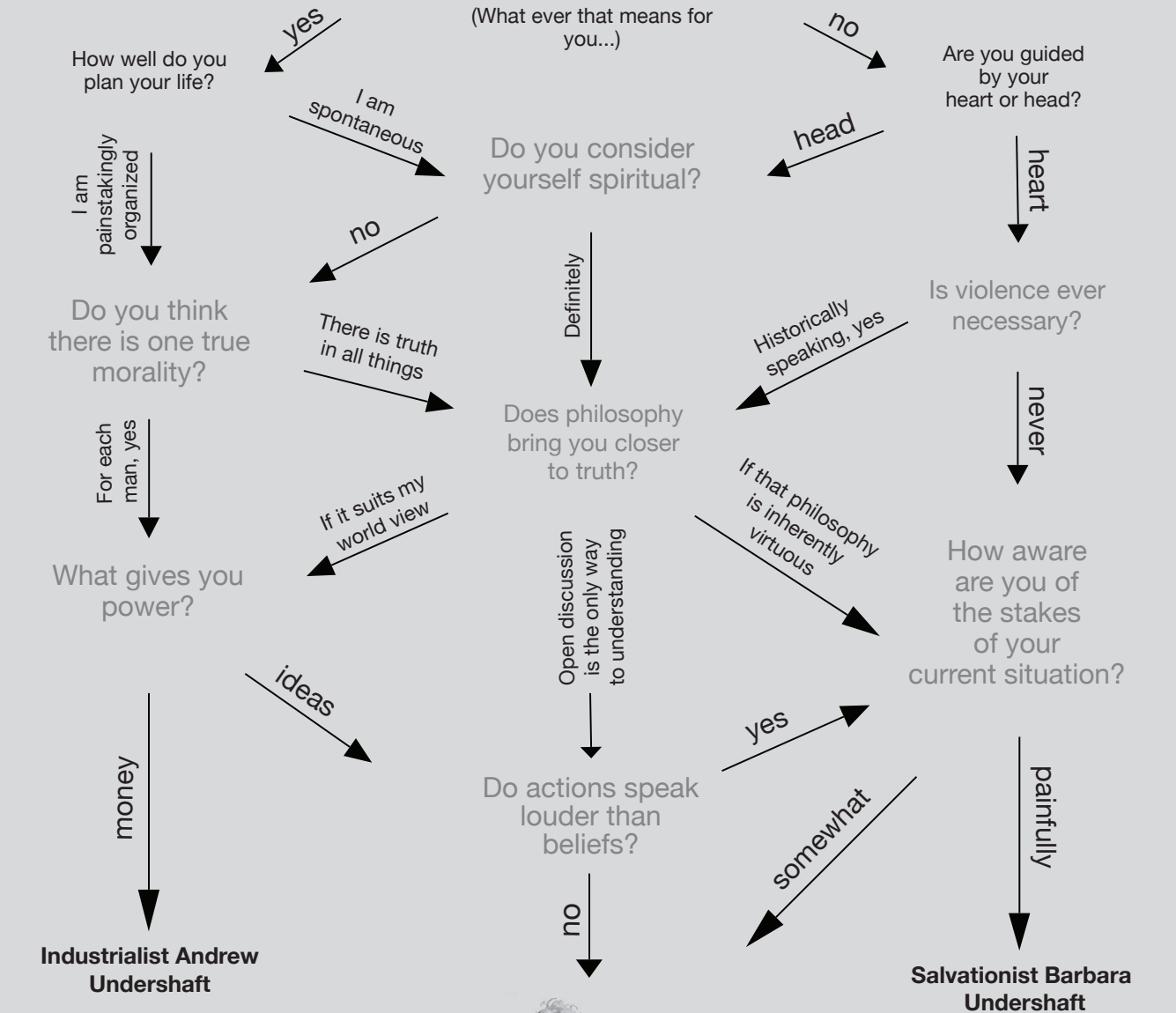
Page 4

Why This Play Now?

Which Character's Philosophy is Closest to Your Own?

Can you buy Salvation?

(What ever that means for you...)



Industrialist Andrew Undershaft

You believe in power and money, making your realistic view of the world difficult for others to accept. But hard work and knowing where you stand are always more helpful to you than silly ideas.



Philosopher Adolphus Cusins

A philosopher at heart, you find peace in a back-and-forth dialogue exchange more than anything. Your romantic sensibilities have always seen you through.



Salvationist Barbara Undershaft

Your convictions are strong, but your idealistic views butt up against others often. You are out to change the world and will let nothing stand in your way.



What's the Price of Salvation?

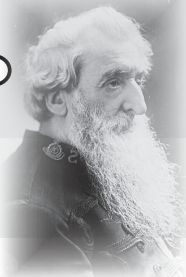
In *Major Barbara*, Shaw pits famous philosophers, religious figures and anthropomorphic personifications against each other in his 'discussion play' in an attempt to answer the question the character Bill Walker voices, "What's the price of Salvation now?" Here is how a few of these figures might respond to that question...

Salvation can only be attained if you go out and take it. I have fallen, and I will take the soul of whoever is foolish enough to give it to me just so I can get what I want.



Mephistopheles, demon from Goethe's epic drama *Faust*

To achieve salvation, you must bring yourself to Christ. There is no place in life so low that Christ cannot save you from it. My army works to bring the poor, the destitute to Christ. Christ does not discriminate, and neither do we.



William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army

All mortals meet the same fate in the land of the dead, but happiness on earth can be found through the enjoyment of bodily pleasures such as wine, dancing, ritual and religious fervor. Join in the festivities, think not on Hades and the river Styx which await you.



Dionysus, Greek God of Theatre, fertility and religious ecstasy

This question of salvation doesn't interest me. 'Salvation' is a silly term religious people use to decide what is and what isn't morally right. What interests me is ambition and the pursuit of glory. This is how fortune is made, and that is the most important moral question you will ever be required to answer.



Euripides, Greek Playwright, author of *Medea*

Offer your sympathies to all victims of society. Be kind to them, understanding that ordinary people can do extraordinary things. This is the way to happiness, as salvation is only the joy of not being punished after this life for wicked deeds done on Earth.



Machiavelli, 13th century Italian philosopher, author of *The Prince*

Why This Play Now?

We live in a world that is separated by those who do deeds for money, those who do deeds for a good cause and those who are not entirely sure. This play, subtitled 'a discussion in three acts,' presents these factions of thought within the context of religion and business and strives to answer the question, "What is the price of Salvation?"


This play is an entertaining conversation on society that we need to have. We must ask ourselves what we are willing to do to help those around us and how much of that help is actually for ourselves. We're hoping this play, a beautiful example of Shaw's way with words, makes you think about the kinds of questions you might not often think about consciously. We hope that you will find parallels between your own life and the struggle the title character has when she finds herself stuck between a rock and a hard place.

20th Century Lingo

You wouldn't think the 20th century could be as hard to understand as it is, but you might be surprised. Here are some 20th century "buzzwords" you will hear in the play:



Dithyramb: An impassioned Greek hymn in honor of Dionysus

Drivelan: Idiotic utterance 

Foundry : An establishment or building in which casting of metal is done



Kowtowed : Acted towards with groveling respect

Mystic: Belief in the possibility of union with God by contemplation and self-surrender

Repudiate: To refuse to accept or be associated with

Rot: Expression of irritation or impatience



Secularist: One who is engaged in the affairs of the world as distinct from the church

Subterfuge: A method used to escape the force of an argument, to avoid blame or to justify one's conduct

Teetotaler: One who abstains from the use of any intoxicating liquor



Tosh: Nonsense

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