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The Ministry

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Cover Page Footnote

This piece was presented as a branch to “The Sonata Machine” Excerpt from The History of Humanity: Volume 2, pp. 317. No attributable authors.

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It was the ministry's idea.

Happiness is a fundamental right, and some citizens hadn't the happiness of others. It had to be put to a stop.

Henceforth, happiness became taxed. Making and distributing happiness was no longer something you could do freely; within a year the ministry saw happiness levels decrease to an acceptable degree.

Simultaneously, and in an act of genius one would be wont to describe to a particular person (but such is the ministry that any act doing so would be impossible), mandated happiness began to be administered, and at a subsidy; those who were unhappy with their state of affairs became decreasingly so.

This twofold process: of inundating the citizenry with inexpensive, affordable happiness and of taxing sketchy, unregulated happiness led to a more equitable distribution of happiness. *The Jupiter plan*, as it was later called, was a marvelous success.

The ministry did not stop there; happiness was only one in a spectrum of emotions which they equalized and equitized.

And people were happy, occasionally sad; they were passionate and angry in equal measures. Rarely were they depressed and rarely were they manic. They lived, each of them, in pulses and on impulses, seizing moments and greeting failures. Hope was not foreign to them; it followed disappointment, which strikes man and woman alike.

And so the ministry furthered its work, and continued to further it. And will further it.

Never mind those who fled to outside the reach of the ministry, who left with such speeds as to be able to escape the gravity, and thoughts, of the sun. Meanwhile, all the planets, and outer planets, revolved ever on.