

# The Fertile Cycle of Learning

By Karl Jaspers

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Education requires teachers. We may be taking this too much for granted today—as if our educators already knew all about the right education, about its contents and planning. But it is the teachers themselves who must be educated in the course of the self-education of all men, at all  
5 ages. The perversion of education under democracy, along with increased educational activities, points to the cycle of educating and being educated—a fertile cycle if it is replete with the contents of faith, knowledge, and skill. Here, as in every rational evolution, the crux is not a straight causal connection. The idea of an educated teacher passing on his finished education to unfinished children is as absurd, on the whole, as the notion of an educated and accordingly  
10 infallible adult population. On he can teach who is still being taught, who keeps educating himself by means of communication. And only he who is taught such self-education in the medium of strict and disciplined studies is being properly taught.