

MODERN DAY DEMOCRACY OR A HORNET'S NEST: THE LABYRINTH OF CONTEMPORARY GOVERNANCE

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"People are trapped in history and history is trapped in them"

- James Baldwin

History of man has been one long lesson, we all think that we have moved forward and that we have learnt from our past mistakes. But the harsh reality is nothing has changed we are all stuck in an awkward paradox where roles change, eras change but people don't. "Qu'ils mangent de la brioche" "große lüge" "fiddled while Rome burned" Like articulation and their relevance in contemporary politics is something that will actually open our eyes to the current day reality.

Man is a making of his past but the saddest part about man and his past is that historians have made the rather messy series of past accounts into a somewhat straight forward set of occurrences. As Dean Kamen spoke, *"People take the longest possible paths, digress to numerous dead ends, and make all kinds of mistakes. Then historians come along and write summaries of this messy, nonlinear process and make it appear like a simple, straight line"*. The true story is hidden in the layers of messy details, by simplifying the messy stories into basic black and white documentation has made the tales lose their spirit and with the loss of essence we lost their lessons too.

Of course, when man thinks of revolution and the era of political enlightenment the first thing that pops up into one's mind is the French revolution, the entire revolution was based on the motto *"Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité"* which was linked by François Fénelon to the French upheaval and internal turmoil at the end of the 17th century, the notions of *"liberty"*, *"equality"* and *"fraternity"* became more widespread during the Age of Enlightenment. Even though the revolution itself ended in 1799 and humanity has claimed to take great strides towards creating a world which is liberal, where all are equal and we all share a deep bond of brotherhood but how true is it? That is a question we need to ask ourselves.

In this modern-day world, we are all pushed behind this absurd veil of ignorance that led us to believe that somehow, we are all equal but the reality has not changed since, the social reality of 17th century France and 21st centuries pseudo modern society is still the same, “*The nobles fight, the clergy pray and the people pay*”. The form and title have changed but the hard-core ground reality is still the same. It was observed by Annie Besant that, “*A myth is far truer than a history, for a history only gives a story of the shadows, whereas a myth gives a story of the substances that cast the shadows*”. The common man still pays while the nobles and clergy juggle with the lives of a common man but we still believe that somehow history has changed and men are all in some way equal.

Our understanding of the world is rather narrow we keep on thinking that, we are better off than our predecessors when it comes to governments, but the one fact we usually tend to forget is that it might have been so that the form of government has progressed from monarchy to democracy but the mentality of the state has never changed, they still are aloof with the common man’s troubles. The absolutely horrific reality of the situation of the common man, like the leaders are as oblivious to the plight of the common man, as the monarchs were, the government and its absurd norms are as puerile as Marie Antoinette saying “*Qu'ils mangent de la brioche*” which vaguely translates to let them eat bread when whole of France was starving.

The former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt in her speech ‘*Where Do Human Rights Begin?*’ in the year 1958 said and I quote “Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere.” More than 70 years have passed since that day but the conditions have not yet changed, we still live under this illusion called human rights and use extravagant words to advocate it, but the social reality paints a different picture all together. Everyday... every single day we hear news from across the globe regarding the plight of humans in the most degrading manner and yet fail to react. Those poor souls who are being sold like cattle in the middle east, those millions of hungry souls in south east Asia, those starving sons of soil, those bleeding daughters of earth, those who were killed because of how they look or who they are, are they not all humans?

We humans never change, we are nothing but petty, Hitler was the worse we said, Stalin a rogue, they might be burning in hell but, dear brother where will we go? The anti-Hitler activist

– **Martin Niemoller** said this way back in the early 20th century, “First, they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out, because I was not a socialist. . . . Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out, because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me.” We all in our own way are our own judases we think we let go others but somewhere in the crowd we lost ourselves, we sold our souls to the satan himself but are so ignorant that we worship him at the altar like the purest form of light.

War was bad we preach but oh dear lord we fight and go to battle over every trivial thing, slaughter of man is bad preaches faith while we sacrifice millions in the name of it. We say we will be the lords of the world yet we aren’t even masters of our own. We say we as humans will bear the torch towards great laurels, oh how smart we are, but seriously all we are is a bunch of egoistic narcissus, our souls so shallow we are so in love with ourselves we drown in a lake of our own sorrow.

Great civilizations own it to humanity we say, we ruled the world. But how silly we humans are thinking, let nature allow us to be its master even when we are nothing but its slave. We stutter around the place like we own it, but the reality is we are just renting it till our time is over. Oh God fearing men don’t act like God cause once you go too far there is no saving your soul.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Martin Luther King Jr. said during the civil rights movement. All those decades ago my fellow brothers thought their lives would be better, oh they are all equal. But decades later we still stand with placards saying “black lives matter”. Where is the love and acceptance that we all preach about, when we all are stuck in this loop where only aspects that are never in our control matter.

Cried the mother’s womb when she gave birth to a child who will not be accepted in society, wept the mother’s heart when her little girl was choked, died the father’s soul when he held his dead daughter’s bones, monsters we created in the name of humanity. The pyre was lit, way before they could stop it, and their child went up in smoke. Yet we claim to be noble souls.

Dear brothers and sisters, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Of-course we as humans lose our existence the day we stop reacting as, “Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."

It's time for us to change and rethink as, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." We as humans need to take a leap of faith and give ourselves a second chance to become humans with humanity once again.

Our souls are dead yet, Vive la humanity!

