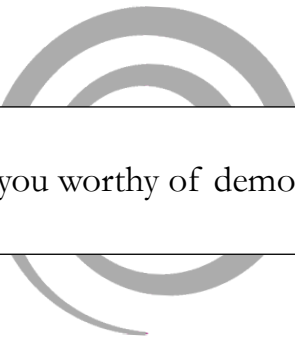


GOVERNMENT

A Visionary Society Quest



Are you worthy of democracy?

Can the citizen make a difference?
Can government cultivate heart and soul?
Is there a way that doesn't depend on force?

“It doesn't matter if that city exists now, or ever will exist. The important thing is to always hold the image of it up before oneself, and, thus beholding it, constitute oneself its citizen.” Plato

Democracy as it is

“Politics are concerned with society, which is always in conflict with itself, always deteriorating. The interrelationship of human beings constitutes society, and that relationship is actually based on ambition, frustration, envy. Society knows no compassion. Compassion is the act of a total and integrated individual.”

J. Krishnamurti

“The staggering concentration of wealth and obscene avarice of the very rich now dwarfs the hedonism and excesses of the world’s most heinous despots and wealthiest capitalists of the past.”

Chris Hedges

“No nation can last, which has made a mob of itself, however generous at heart. It must discipline its passions, and direct them, or they will discipline IT, one day, with scorpion whips. Above all, a nation cannot last as a money-making mob: it cannot with impunity—it cannot with existence,—go on despising literature, despising science, despising art, despising nature, despising compassion, and concentrating its soul on Pence.”

John Ruskin

Visionary government

Social dialogue instead of leadership

“Leaders have no business doing what they’re doing today (making policies and instituting them). Rather, what we need is leaders who are facilitators of social dialogue.” *Mary Clark*

Diversity, complexity, plurality

“We were told that salvation would be found in the domination of a single system. The new model seeks to dismantle power.’ The kind of power we are seeing should be criminal and unnecessary. What is happening now is decentralized, universal and singular and unique.”

Paul Hawken

Place soul at the center of our concerns

“In every gathering of people, from business to politics, community would be considered more important than organization, and friendship more valuable than productivity...Community arises when we...give attention to the desires and intentions of others. This is not an obligation, it’s a way of being that invites soul in place of ego.”

Thomas More

Practice

Get under the surface of a political or social issue

Turn a political conflict into a philosophical mystery.

Transform the field on which the opposing parties meet, so that they do not meet in opposition.

- Listen deeply to a view that you are not inclined to agree with.
- Proceed with respect. Be gentle and helpful.
- Look underneath (to personal psychology, character, virtue, and will)
- Instead of demanding change, ask for understanding.
- Do not appeal to (or blame) leaders or authorities. Do not look to government or big business for a solution.
- Don't try to address external needs first.
- Find a way that changes assumptions, that all sides can agree with, that works at the heart level.
- Resolve the question in a new way.



Vision

Vote with your life – The courage of heart and soul

We must have trust in ourselves and others. Trust that the good and beautiful exists. Before Visionary Society exists, we must become capable of it, which means that we are able to overcome the adversarial, combative dynamic. We need exquisite sensitivity to the human situation. We must become visionary society citizens.

Vote with your life

Do not vote for a second-rate way of life, even if this is the lesser of two evils. Use all of your resources – money, time, passion, skills, etc. – to make the world better. Have the courage of heart and soul.

Create time in your life

Engage in current affairs. Devote a share of one's time and energy to public service.

See beyond the political

Do not accept either the status quo or the radical, the right or the left. Go underneath. Do not engage in conflict, including political conflict. Never humiliate another person.

Do not primarily seek external change

Look for the inner quality of politicians

Don't expect politicians to solve social problems. Focus on the

Action

Activate Humanity political party
with any political issue

Transform any political issue into Quest

See a conflict as a problem to be resolved by understanding, relationship, etc. Instead of engaging in politics (policy, adversarial relationships, laws, enforcement), engage all stakeholders directly to change the conversation, based on understanding and relationship.

Ask for empathy

Ask for contrition, reflection. Instead of holding others accountable, ask them what they can do to resolve an issue. What do you want those who don't understand or disagree to think about carefully and compassionately?

*“O let America be America again
The land that never has been yet
And yet must be.”
Langston Hughes*

Humanity Political Party

Humanity Political Party is a way to change political conflict into understanding and transformation. It works mainly by agreement, rather than policies and laws. Politics doesn't have to be superficial, manipulative and coercive. Go underneath the surface to find our real needs and interests!

What is the Humanity political party platform? It is the process of exploring any Quest and arriving at Vision and Action.

- Instead of using force, appeal to the common good.
- Make it possible to do reasonable things legally.
- Expand the range (and flexibility) of what is allowed, including licensing.
- Reduce licensing requirements, allowing certification instead.
- Expanded freedom of use of quasi-public spaces.
- Support differences, at the small and large scale.
- Foster 'exquisite sensitivity' to the <human situation>.
- Address the full range of our interests (including relationship, autonomy, and beauty).
- Always take the human factor into account first.

What is Visionary Society?

*Visionary Society is a way to turn your ideas about
how to make the world better into action.*

Make your world meaningful.

www.visionarysociety.org

*Mystery
Topic
Practice
Invitation
Action*

