

12.0

GOAL OF GOVERNANCE

Politics

There are three imperatives of animal life:

1. Food
2. Sex
3. Politics

What is politics? It is the way by which animals structure themselves for peace and order. In the case of human beings, because they cannot govern themselves, they create a structure to where they give some of the rights in exchange for peace, order, and security.

Is social order not the end goal of governance and politics?



Governance and Politics

The two words are often confused with one other. Politics is the play of power. Governance is how power is used to manage people for the pursuit of the common good.

What is the common good?

It is the 'greatest good for the greatest number for the longest time.' There must be a time dimension into the equation. If not, we will use up everything today and not leave anything else for our children.

Two Kinds of Politics

There are two kinds of politics.

1. The game of trying to arrive or keep a position of power
2. The use of the available power at the game for trying to ... do something for the common good.

The First Kind

Politics has become all about the first – the game of trying to arrive at, or maintain, a position of power. And because power is the most intoxicating, addictive and dangerous drug, everything is done to reach or to keep a position of power. As this is being written,

This is also called the ‘politics of democracy’. As this is being written, we are in the thick of a national and local elections. The candidates spend tremendous amounts of money to be elected—to arrive at or maintain a position of power. To become president for example, one would have to spend something in the order of about 5 to 10 billion pesos (~US\$100-\$200 Million). Please tell me: Where are these candidates going to get the money from? Of course, from those who want to recover it, and make even more, if the candidate they give money to wins.

Such is the mess of what politics has become. We seem to have forgotten that political governance is all about organizing us so that we will have:

Peace
Order
Security
Food sufficiency
Social harmony,
and the
Full blossoming
of the
Human being.



Vanishing Islands, 2x3', Acrylic on canvass, 2013

The Second Kind

The second of politics is the use of the available power at the game of trying ... to effect changes for the common good. This is the kind of politics that we citizens can play – the use of whatever power we have to try to do something good for others.

Common good is defined as the ‘greatest good for the greatest number for the longest time.’

Power of the People

And what is our power that we, ordinary citizens, have in our hands?

The power of imagination, the power of speech, the power of persuasion, and the freedom and power of the human will.

Imagination

Given a situation that is unacceptable, this is the innate power that we have in our minds – the power of imagination – that gives us the ability to see the ‘What Is’ and then go beyond to ‘What-can-be’.

Speech and Persuasion

With the power of speech, we can express our sentiments, our thoughts and ideas. We can write letters to our leaders, give them suggestions? The question rises right away? Will they listen? The counter question I ask is: “Have you tried?”

The gift of speech and the ability to express our thoughts and ideas to influence others are much too under-estimated. This becomes even more significant these days with the power of social media.

Human Will

This gift is even more taken for granted.

“What the mind can conceive,
Ant the heart will believe,
The hands can achieve.”

As the citizens, we also vote our leaders into office. Collectively, we have the last say. It took all of human history for us to get where we are. In fact, less than a hundred years ago, people were still governed by the absolute rule of one man, or a handful of testosterone-driven men. As a result, there ensued wars of unspeakable violence, all caused by this minimally-useful gender.



And until the 20th century, many peoples or the world – called ‘colonies’ -- were still under the yoke of the more powerful countries. It was not until the 20th century, after the world was turned upside down by the Two World Wars, that the powerful countries began to get a sense of humanity and gave up their colonies. Perlas got its independence after the Second World War in 1945. Shortly after, another country with over a billion people was also given its independence.

There must be something about war – and the suffering that people collectively go through -- that makes it a good wake-up call. It took all of 120 deaths in the two world wars to make human beings begin to understand that killing each other *en masse* is not such a good idea.

Modern Day Democracy

It took all of time to get us to where we are now – self-rule, independence and a government of the people, for the people, and by the people. But today, we do not seem to quite understand that. What does that mean?

Shifting of Political Play

The goal of governance and politics is to fulfill the basic needs of the people and to give them the chance to blossom as human beings. It is not about the game of getting into power, but about using the available power at the game of trying to effect changes for the common good -- the greatest good for the greatest number for the longest time.’ In the game of using the Land, the Air and that Waters – the sources of all life, this must be the working principle: It must last until such time as

we no longer need it. If we, and other life-forms, no longer need water to drink, air to breathe and food to grow, then we can go ahead poison them all.

The native Iroquois tribe of America practiced what they called the “Principle of Seven Generations.” This simply says that any use of the life-forces of Nature – Land, Air and Waters -- must last for at least seven generations.

That must be the guiding principle in the use of the LAW of Life.

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