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politician
as far as
is necessary

a few minor bloody suggestions

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pamphlet

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Why?

A politician has no time to dedicate to other things. He doesn't observe holidays, never can he pull the plug, nor switch off his mobile.

A politician sacrifices his family, his children, affections and passions. He has no home. Has no friends. Has many enemies, often dangerous.

Politicians are frequently pestered by beggars or by the really needy asking for favours and assistance.

Politicians must continuously engage in activities such as exhibitions, conventions, fêtes, religious ceremonies, funerals, weddings, military parades, remembrance ceremonies, inaugurations, sports functions, party meetings managing to remain awake and always finding the right words for the occasion.

Whatever they do, politicians are bound to upset someone. And those that they do manage to satisfy more often than not are ungrateful.

Politicians are both envied and hated by people. If they are honest, they are faced with constant temptation, don't profit from their position but are nevertheless fingered as thieves.

In order to get elected, a politician is forced to engage in deceitful publicity, promising the world because people tend to reward those who brag the most.

He takes advantage of common naivety, he appears simple like those who he addresses, and only says things that his audience believe and want to be told.

Politicians cannot say what they think and always do the opposite of what they say. They lie, they don't hold any beliefs, don't dream, don't love, don't hate, don't show any

Power

«Power consumes those that do not have it».

This statement belongs to Giulio Andreotti the unflinching and enigmatic Italian politician who was present in Parliament without interruption from 1945 till his death in 2013, who was seven times Prime Minister, and Minister on innumerable occasions. In other words someone who understood power.

Oriana Fallaci wrote this about him: «I felt an unease which I couldn't quite describe. Then all of a sudden I realised that it wasn't unease. It was fear. This man made me fearful. But why? He had welcomed me with infinite kindness: with cordiality. Real power has no need for insouciance, long beards, a booming voice. Real power strangles you with silk ribbons, with politeness, intelligence».

Power is never enough, it never leaves you sated. Power is a powerful drug that requires ever greater doses, the sweetest aphrodisiac. The desire for power is absolute and irreversible.

Power is an inner vortex that inebriates souls, that weakens the mind, that gives a sense of omnipotence, brings with it money and sex. The powerful have escorts, money, privileges, they don't have to queue at airports or at the post office. They are surrounded by armies of adulators, by legions of adoring volunteers. They speed through life to the sound of wailing sirens.

In a week they handle money, take trips, meet important people and take part in events in greater measure than could many generations of ordinary people.

They live life to excess. A life multiplied by two.

They become physiologically dependent on power, often if

The people

Individuals are not necessarily stupid.

People are though.

Politicians are not concerned with the behaviour and needs of the individual. But with the average behaviour and needs of people.

Only in this way can they ensure that they have a chance to attract votes in sufficient numbers to give them access to power, which is the only thing that matters to them.

A democracy operates under the principle of “one head one vote”, meaning that the vote of a cretin or a crook carries equal weight to that of a wise, intelligent and honest person. The importance is the quantity, not the quality of consent. And since it is known that cretins are more numerous than intelligent people, politicians have learned to cut their cloth accordingly. Their only interest is to obtain the greatest approval, regardless of moral or qualitative values that can be ascribed to their choices.

When you take individuals as a whole, each individual’s positive attributes are wiped out by the mediocrity of the whole. When you mix together different vivid and different colours, the result is grey. The same thing happens when you mix people: the result is a amorphous mass of modest requirements and superficial expectations.

Let’s take four or five men or women “of success”, and fifteen ordinary men or women: a fashion photographer, a tax lawyer, a molecular biology university professor, a company manager, a world class sculptor, five ordinary employees, three workmen, a waiter, a cleaner, a shipper, a warehouseman, a member of a finance team, two farm labourers.

The Sacred Vestments

For a long time now in western countries religion has governed the minds of a multitude of men and women without the need for armies, tribunals and physical constraints.

Church ministers have been wearing the same garments for centuries, ancient liturgical robes of obscure and esoteric significance with arcane and mysterious symbols and head garments.

They celebrate their rituals, which have remained unchanged from time immemorial, in enormous and lavish structures that tower over individuals, on richly decorated altars and they preach unopposed aloft from pulpits, flanked by choirs and incense.

Excessive recourse to the mysteries of faith, to dogma, to belief, to the flock of faithful meekly following their shepherd, all of this by definition precludes their being any possibility of dialogue or of rational thought processes.

The degree of subjugation engendered by the religious system is such that the faithful are discouraged from asking themselves the fundamental question: why?

Sacred vestments bestow upon those wearing them the necessary gravitas to be taken at face value without if's and but's, a phenomenon that is also experienced by the laity in the case of the judiciary where wigs gowns and furs can still be found, or the military with its uniforms and stars.

Bishops, judges and generals: living symbols of power, of unswerving obedience represented by their elitist and greatly symbolic apparel.

The degree of psychological subservience of the more conservative among the faithful is such that whatever

Deciding

The real ability of a politician to bring about real changes to peoples living conditions, both rapidly and effectively is on the whole unlikely: every day in the world billions of people get up every morning, go to work, produce, suffer and get to the end of the day regardless of any decisions that might have been made in their favour or against, by politicians.

A complex world such as the one we live in has such momentum that it moves in accordance with influences that are unfathomable at the best of times, such that whether or not politicians actually push themselves or pretend to, they have equal chances of reaching the objectives they had set out for themselves.

And in those cases where it is possible to make a difference, its highly likely that decisions will be taken elsewhere and that the politician will only be required to pass the baton or to press a button in parliament on instructions from some group leader.

All politicians defer to some higher office and are only granted a certain autonomy in decision making when the stakes are not high. Even the highest ranking politicians from the leading political parties are not autonomous, since decisions (or perhaps non-decisions) have to be taken collegiately often after lengthy and troublesome negotiations and bickering with different groups and factions within.

Politicians must therefore live for the day, passively adapting themselves to the changing circumstances and never being seen (unless it's a mere gesture) as a protagonist or agent of change, instead letting things change on their own, or allowing that others take on the duty of fostering change,

The Machine

Politicians must give the impression of someone who can move with ease and purpose through the labyrinthine State bureaucracy and be able to a greater or lesser degree, influence the decisions of the public administration. In this way they will be able to quickly create for themselves a network of patrons ready to supply votes and favours in exchange for favourable sponsorship.

Politicians must keep the State administrative machine in a constant state of disarray.

In fact the more that the bureaucratic machine is in disarray, inefficient or largely unprofessional, the greater the number of trusted acolytes - both incompetent and grateful - which politicians will be able to take on, the more they are then able to interfere and obtain undeserved advantages for their *patrons*, enabling them to acquire gains both for themselves and their parties in exchange for the *patrons'* support.

The state of disarray however must be kept within broadly acceptable limits, otherwise it risks becoming a loss leader resulting in a diminishing share of the vote, except where there exists a vast network of supporters. In such cases in fact, the hegemony exercised by the politician is such as to enable them to acquire sustained and continued support and financial succour so they can manage the state of disarray and nurture it for a long time.

The bad administration of the public thing, the lamentable state of the administration of justice added to the puzzling attitude of the tax authorities in particular, function perfectly well for the services that politicians require of them.

Values

In an old Eddie Murphy film “the Distinguished Gentleman”, the main protagonist who is elected as a member of the US Congress manages to get himself into the much vaunted Energy and Industry Commission thereby gaining access to covert funds that the lobbyists in that sector pay to the members of the Commission to garner favours.

The scene in question depicts the corrupt and powerful Dick Dodge, Chairman of the Commission after having secured an increase in donations in exchange for authorising new and dangerous electricity transmission routes, who is next seen in front of journalists in an emotional state as he receives a little girl affected by a tumour caused by exposure to electromagnetic waves caused by the proximity of her school to the electricity pylons.

Of course the director wanted to accentuate the immorality of politicians and it would be ludicrous and offensive to those that conduct themselves in politics with a spirit of selflessness, to tar all politicians with the same brush, thereby insinuating that they all behave in a similar way.

But at the same time it is evident that many politicians make no bones about reaching questionable and ambiguous decisions.

There are countries in full recession teetering on the edge of financial oblivion where essential public services are being cut and taxes are stifling businesses but where incredibly purchases of useless fighter jets or new warships at colossal prices continue. It seems necessary to ask one’s self if in these cases one can see the hand of a Dick Dodge at work.

No one is naive enough to believe that a type of politics

Scandals

Scandals are a part of politics simply because politics is shrouded in secrecy, often not entirely impenetrable.

Scandals are apparently symptomatic of a healthy democracy and indicative of good moral substance in a people.

They seem to happen in the presence of two conditions of normality: firstly the fact that there exist judges, journalists or independent officials who are able to operate freely and are able to investigate and uncover any unlawful activity. Secondly that there exists a public opinion that can itself become scandalised, and that it is imbued with a sense of moral ethics and constitutional rigour which in turn leads to feelings of indignation and anger.

The reality is however more complicated.

In Anglo Saxon countries the reaction to scandals favours less tiresome and gossipy variants, essentially those that involve sex. This leads one to doubt the moral ethics and constitutional rigour described above. In those countries, the career of a politician is affected much more by a detective discovering the existence of a past lover, rather than the fact that he may have been a CEO of a company that is receiving favours from the public body now under his control.

This seems to be the result of the influence of religion in Anglo Saxon culture, added to an obsession with sex (if one thinks that the vast majority of world pornography is produced in puritan United States), however it must also be said that even in different societies and cultures, such as in China, sex scandals are given prominent coverage.

In Latin countries, sex scandals have much less prominence

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The question arises.

Why?

*What drives a person
to do the politician?*

*To conduct this
hellish life?*

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