

Primitive Ways for the Future

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Foreword

No one wants to hurt fellow human beings or see others hurt. Yet we daily see killing or injuring of children, women and men in Gaza & West Bank, Ukraine, Sudan and others. The war destructions are painful, even watching them from afar. Why can it ever occur what no one wants?

Apparently the problem is in separation of political powers from the people. Let us review the human history to find out the causes of the problems and clues for the solutions.

Primitive ages

Homo Sapiens have already 50 thousands of years history. The civilization; agriculture and domestication of animals began at earliest 10 thousand years ago. The majority of our history is the primitive ages.

There were no wars in the primitive ages. The population was sparse and people lived in small groups far separated. The economy was basically collection of natural resources. But trading was extensively made as we discover stones tools from limited sources over far wider areas.

Natural democracy

People were free and equal in primitive society. Matters were democratically decided among the groups. The democracy in primitive ages was essential as subsistence of the people was impossible without it. We are sure of the primitive democracy from observations of primitive tribes in North America around 17-18th centuries or in literature of ancient Greece, China, Japan and others.

Equality and mutual help was essential in primitive ages as the natural economy was so inefficient and unstable. There was no accumulation of wealth, hence no concept of private property. There were probably no words for democracy, human rights, freedom, equality, etc. because they were universally existent. Likewise there were no words for master, servants, warrior, soldier, general, command, power, etc., because they were non-existent.

We can see it in Japanese language. We have very few political terms in Japanese language proper. Almost all terms about politics, social classes, taxes, services, i.e. civilizations are of Chinese origins. The situation is similar in English, too. Origins of most civilized words in English are from ancient Greece, Rome, Latin, etc.

Natural religion and science & technology

Religion and science & technology were one in primitive ages. Regular movement of the sun, moon and stars, changes in seasons, growth of animals and plants, birth, growth and death of fellow human beings gave our ancestors deep impressions and some concepts about natural laws.

Animism

We have our internal world called mind. In our mind, we remember the past, think about anything including the future. This experience leads us to imagine everything must have a spirit in it.

In Japanese animism, not only humans but also animals, plants, mountains, waterfalls, rivers, rocks or anything in nature has soul inside.

Shamanism

We communicate with others by words. We also internally think in words. Shamanism is a natural religion in which one can call the spirits by certain words or phrases.

Technology

The primitive ages completed almost all basis of civilization; many animals and plants were named, fruit trees (ex. chest nuts, in Maruyama remain, 4000 years ago) planted for food and wood, all sorts of tools (ax, knife, drill, hoe, needle, spear, arrow, bows for generating fire, etc.) and pottery were invented very early. People must have been very diligent because they had so many things to learn; how to build houses, make all sorts of tools, tell edible plants from poisonous ones, hunting, learning plants for curing diseases or healing wounds, paths for distant villages for trading, planting trees or plants in primitive farming, etc. Just bearing babies was quite a big work as well as funerals.

They learned everything from their elders through life and by fireside talks in the caves or in their huts. Knowledge was transferred from generation to generation by words. They had very good memories. Words were sacred as they conveyed knowledge. In ancient Japan our ancestors believed in spirits in words (KotoDama).

Civilization

Advent of agriculture and domestication of animals bore concepts of private ownership. Competitions for better lands caused conflicts developing into wars among different groups (families, villages, clans, etc.). The wars end in generating winners and losers. Victory brought the winners more territories, soldiers, laborers and wealth. The process continued until formation of states ruled by kings. The civilization has split the society to the rulers and the ruled. The rulers monopolized all the rights and the ruled were obliged to bear all the duties. The human freedom and equality in primitive ages were lost in civilization. Here we see how the political power was generated. Its separation from the people was essential.

State religions

The states need justification for the rulers to rule the people. It is provided by states religion. The states religions created gods which were nothing but a religious reflection of kings themselves but in the other world (heaven). The priests of state religions then preach that the kings are given the rights to rule the people by gods. All ancient states were regulated by state religions. In Japanese mythology the justification was made that the emperor was descendent of the sun goddess in heaven. The people were educated to believe the state religions that decorated the authority by various documents and ceremonies which are nothing more than the primitive shamanism.

Long middle ages

Most of the human history in civilization had been that of divided societies. Small numbers of kings and ruling classes ruled majority of the people. How could it be possible? The key is monopoly.

Monopoly of power

King and aristocracy is a firmly organized permanent structure. In history numerous uprisings of the people were brutally crushed by the rulers because the rulers were firmly organized and the rebellions were not. Monopoly of power was the basis of the class divided societies.

Monopoly of authority

The state churches monopolized the authority. People were taught they could be connected to gods only through the priests. The Roman Church burnt Joan of Arch to death because she said she had directly heard god's voice. If such claims were allowed, the church would lose its reason to exist.

Monopoly of knowledge

The universities monopolize knowledge, and above all the right and authority to grant doctorate to the students. The rights to give degrees and other qualifications secured the universities to collect, accumulate and monopolize knowledge and students.

Modern ages

The human society quietly developed during the long middle age despite of difficulties. The invention of printing expedited spread of knowledge and thought, gradually breaking the above monopolies. With development of industries and trades around the world the transactions among the people increase the knowledge exchanges and varieties of new thoughts grow like water under the ground. Then they come up to the surface to form springs, brooks, currents and rivers. All rivers flow to the sea where all sorts of knowledge and thought interact to bear new ideas and technologies.

Independence of USA

The declaration of independence in 1776 clearly announces recovery of the natural democracy. The USA is the first major state without a king and representative democracy in the modern world.

French revolutions

The principle of democracy was theorized by the French philosopher J.J. Rousseau in his theory of Contractual Society. But democracy was realized gradually by a number of painful revolutions starting with French Revolution in 1789.

Democracy essentials;

<1> Fundamental Human rights (Declaration of Independence)

<2> Government representative of the people (G. Washington)

<3> Government of the people, by the people, for the people (A. Lincoln)

I think the modern democracy is recovery of the natural human rights in the primitive ages.

Today

We are now in the information age. Input a few keywords into the Internet, then immediately we get some answers. Are we getting wiser? I am afraid not. Easily given knowledge is easily forgotten. Besides the Internet today is flooded with fake news and shallow or wrong information. I am afraid we can be getting more and more stupid in our information age.

Primitive Ways for the Future

We must learn as our ancestors did in the primitive ages. To learn a foreign language you must read, consult all unknown words with your dictionary, and speak or write in the language numerous times. T.A.Edison said he had read all the books in Detroit Library when he was only 12 to 13. He was a big reader, and writer. He also said invention is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. I believe the inspiration comes only through the perspiration.

Euclid said to his king; there is no king's road in geometry. The roads are far and steep at times, but the roads for learning are open to everybody. The Internet is the world largest living library.

We must exercise our right to strengthen our democracy. There is always a danger that the fundamental human rights violated by political powers out of control of the people. Despotism is based on the stupidity of the people. The rulers monopolize the mass media and education systems to keep the people from the truth and filled with fake news and deceptive theories.

Democracy is based on truth hence supported by knowledgeable people. It requires efforts to strengthen the democracy but it is the basis of our justice, peace and prosperity.