



BEGINNING AGAIN

Pamela Satterwhite

HUMMING WORDS



P R E S S



A HUMMING WORDS • NEW (NASCENCE TO END WORK) PRESS BOOK
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THIS IS A HUMMING WORDS • NEW
(NASCENCE TO END WORK) PRESS BOOK

“My soul is like a singing bowl – it *hums*.”

Cover: Sergei Konionkov, *To Those Who Fell Fighting for the Cause of Peace and the Brotherhood of Nations*, 1918 (portion)

Back: from John Boswell’s *The Kindness of Strangers: The Abandonment of Children in Western Europe from Late Antiquity to the Renaissance*

Frontispiece: Francisco Goya, Dream of lies and inconstancy, from *Los Caprichos*

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The Purpose of the Series

This is Volume 3 of a five-part series: *We Are Living the Transition That Ends the Class System... and Ushers In... Our Future... Freedom...*

This series continues discussions begun in *Waking Up: Freeing Ourselves From Work* and on the website Nascence to End Work (writings available free online at nas2endwork.org).

I hope with these conversations to help concretize our vision of 'future freedom'... a future based in uncoerced life.

A key argument in this series is that 'power' has a vision on which they are very focused, and that only a broadly worked-on vision on which we... the people... are equally focused... can stop theirs from becoming reality.

I think we can glean from their actions... actions which otherwise seem unaccountable...

(Why so resistant to full participation...
...and instead so committed...
...to authoritarian visions...
...that trash our earth vast...
...and hurt brothers and sisters...
...we, who could so easily...
...make health and happiness...
...the general way of things?)

...a vision founded on an idealization of ancient Greece...
an ancient Greece that never existed.

Martin Bernal, in *Black Athena: The Afroasiatic Roots of Classical Civilization, Volume 1: The Fabrication of Ancient Greece 1785 – 1985*, explains how this ‘history’ was fabricated... based at “the university of Gottingen [Germany], founded in 1734 by George II, Elector of Hanover and King of England...” forming thereby “a cultural bridge between Britain and Germany...”

...a profoundly racist – in a Platonic sense – academic project... which was then systematically spread to students at elite educational institutions across the ‘civilized world’ as “the classical heritage”.

Those reared to be ‘rulers’ imbibe Plato with mother’s milk.

Bernal shows that what we have been conditioned to call ‘ancient Greece’ – meaning the birthplace of ‘European Civilization’ – was in fact a ‘Great Mediterranean Bowl’... around which swirled... danced... ran... fled... (desperate to escape slavery...) peoples of many lands and ways... Asiatic, Arab and African... who shared those ways as they came and went... a very fertile fermentation....

‘Western’ elites’ vision of the ideal ‘state’... and therefore their futuristic imaginings... are largely Plato-inspired... express the flights of fancy they found... in the *Republic*. Karl Popper, in *The Open Society and Its Enemies, Volume One: The Spell Of Plato*, exhaustively explains the propagandistic nature of Plato’s writings... and the totalitarian nature of his thought.

In his *Republic* Plato provided a practical guide to ‘rulers’ for establishing slavery... I hope this series will further practical discussions... for escaping it.

(This writing here and on the website is contributed with the goal of helping to further a mass movement to end wage work. Your financial support will allow us to reprint both this book and *Waking Up* in order to make them available for discussion in low-income communities.)

- Volume 1: Unpacking ‘Democracy’
- Volume 2: Revealing Division
- Volume 3: Beginning Again
- Volume 4: To Rebuild Our Freedom
- Volume 5: Classifying Will Not Bring ‘Class’ To A Close: The Case For Not Labeling Our Future Freedom

First Principles... The Essence Of A Class-System Is Force

Until we know our lives are stolen, we can't begin seeing an alternative vision, which grows the courage needed to build the numbers that express our... (global...) solidarity. And...

...if we don't own ourselves this time, then we aren't "beginning again," as we can't "begin again" if we continue to be 'the system.'

The 'Founding Fathers' (of 'class') had no 'purpose' other than to enjoy a good life...

...a 'good life' for which others paid the check...

...which means they were the ultimate... narcissists...

...the 'world' spun outwards from themselves...

...they were the vortex...

...a black hole sucking energy toward it...

...our energy... we... commoners-all...

...across all cultures and mounting millennia...

...across all horrors...

...drawn... whipped... chained... quartered...

...leashed to the dreams of 'power'...

...and our half-lives-lived have paid...

...for 'all-of-it'...

...all the built world and toxic seas...

...all the dirt in the air we breathe...

...all the love...

...all the art...

...all the meanness...

...and 'heart'...

...all of it.

Interest paid... credit accrued... at long-long-last...
...now falls due.
But... can we seize this moment?

How develop the *certainty* that we're done with this 'system' – with 'class'? Because only when we're *certain* does courage come to end it, and with it the vision that steels us... to begin again.

All of which is why we need an *accurate* analysis – as our thoughts have been 'conditioned' to accept the limits given, as so much of the truth is kept hidden (especially that 'power' has a vision – and that we're kept *systematically* small), we'll need new thoughts to 'represent' for the 'all.'

I believe there are some significant chunks of truth that have been denied us (though through the earth there's always access... to 'all-of-it'), and that these chunks, if we knew them, could help us believe in the possibility of generalized human freedom, help us develop the certainty that we *can* design a society that embraces... *everybody*...

...and that these thoughts, these hidden thoughts, compose a story that is dangerous for 'power,' and it will stop at nothing to prevent a *critical mass* from thinking these thoughts, believing that alternative story... because when it does, the house of cards which is their fantasy of control and supremacy will fall... and the generality, consequently, will finally start to live again as wholes.

Here are a few of these thoughts (more follow):

“...we don't need anyone else to tell us what to do...”

“...mutual aid is our nature...”

“...it is our birthright to live fully – in accordance with our nature – and to express our full human gifts.”

To divert us from these obvious truths, a monumental project was erected that ‘power’ called ‘History’...

...a story that says ‘now’ is of no matter... that we must sacrifice our lives to realize... the ‘destination’...

...the only ‘truth’ is ‘Perfect Reason’... (the ‘Perfect Mind,’ which is the ‘rulers’ goal and *raison d’être*, and should be ours as well we’re told)... and we exist to help them get there....

But the truth is... that... we... don’t.

We exist to live... in the full abundance of our earth-given gifts... like every other living thing that owns itself.

This project they call ‘History,’ I will call (in honor of Karl Popper), the ‘Historicist Myth,’ a short-hand for which might be: “story-leading-reality.”

And the goal to leash our human energy to ‘power’s’ fantasies of supremacy means keeping us *believing* in their project... so much so that we adopt it as our own. And our native cooperation, our deep-rooted belief in mutual aid, our selfless placing of the group before our ‘selves’ – this trait which for millennia meant ‘survival’ – plunged us into a living Hell.

And those few who in their brief lives duly noted how we commoners were duped... were buried in our minds once duly dead...

...but never... altogether.

And, resurrected, reach out to us, 'til the few become the many, and that time is now upon us, when we redeem their long-due promise.

And this myth we call 'historicist' has many, many versions, which, as we recognize its pattern, and we see its weight upon us, see the sacrifice of life (and the ignoble thoughts the earth would never give), we'll have the courage... to begin again.

Over seventy years ago Karl Popper sounded the alarm. The roots of totalitarian thinking, said he, can be clearly seen in the nutty longing of a few to be 'Philosopher-Kings.' And this world-view will ever plague us until we refuse... to let them rank us.

We are *all* stuck in the 'historicist-myth' of 'power,' in the lie that our lives in the 'now' must be sacrificed to some 'greater-good' ... further down.

And as long as we accept the validity of 'rank,' we will want to be the 'shepherds' not the 'sheep,' and 'division' will pass unexamined in the waterways of our minds.

When we accept the mindset of 'rank,' we relinquish our "chief arm in the struggle for life..."

...and in forfeiting mutual aid... we forfeit our freedom.

First principles (not in order... of 'importance'):

One. 'Power' is organized, and deeply committed to its totalitarian vision. Its bitterness is phenomenal and deeply unifying of their tribe.

(It's as if 'the-excluded-from-love' formed their own Tribe of *Miserables* and made a secret pact to rule us.)

Two. 'Power' cannot be reined-in.

Why do 'we' seem unable to face this? ...as...

...it has been so since the idea of preeminence first chanced to claim the mind of an abandoned child.

(But in Volumes 1 and 2, I argued [or implied] that this only *seems* to be the general feeling, that 'the people' already know this, and it is only those who pretend to speak for us who repeat "power' must be reined-in" ... *ad infinitum.*)

Karl Popper, it's true, believed that a strong 'nation-state', organized according to democratic principles, could restrain 'power,' but he also believed that, incrementally, 'the people' could make 'the state' more 'people-friendly'... and more successfully assert its claim to more forcefully oversee governance.

'Power,' of course, is not interested in 'governance'... it wants to rule... 'free' of any bounds... to claim 'freedom' for themselves... exclusively.

[“The self-consciousness of one particular Nation is the vehicle for the... development of the collective spirit; ...in it, the Spirit of the Time invests its Will. Against this Will, the other national minds have no rights: *that* Nation dominates the World.’ It is thus the nation and its spirit and its will that act on the stage of history. History is the contest of the various national spirits for world domination....” (Karl Popper, quoting Hegel, see *Revealing Division*)]

The ‘nation’ is the collective ‘will’... that contests with other ‘wills’... for world domination.

‘Freedom,’ for ‘power,’ is a zero-sum game which they’re determined to ‘win’ at our expense... and as ‘freedom’ must, by their lights, be (seemingly) ‘achieved’ (though actually orchestrated), as ‘worth’ must be ‘proven,’ and ‘supremacy’ ‘earned,’ the rest of us do not deserve it.

And, for them, ‘freedom,’ trapped as they are in the mindset of ‘abandonment,’ means to control... *everything*.

They could not trust... in the possibility of good fellowship.

But *governance* cannot be done in the absence of full participation, apart from engaged... thinking... consciousnesses.

States... created to facilitate transfers of wealth from earth that is (and earth that’s us) to would-be rulers... longing to possess... exclusive keys...to our collective treasury... yoked to the service of their yearning... to be... the pin-point of the hierarchy... cannot be directed to serve... us.

Everything we have that minimally supports wholeness and health has been wrested from a bitter tug-of-war with ‘power’... none of it was *designed* for wholeness and health in the first place... just the opposite... was rather designed to keep us herded... and distanced from the decisioning-process of ‘the state’... to protect state ‘prerogatives.’

So there is a sense in which I agree with Popper and others who long for generalized human freedom, when they say that only ‘the people’ can rein-in – or, rather, end – ‘power’... (this being obvious...) but ‘democracy’ is an ideology of ‘class’.

Popper could see no alternative to ‘democracy’ because the alternatives to his mind were either totalitarian or ‘tribal’ – either a Plato-inspired longing for total control of the world, or narrow concern for ‘self’ only (or extensions of ‘self’.) He could not know what he could not know: that ‘communalism,’ or ‘wholism,’ or a belief in “‘mutual aid’ and good fellowship” *could* reign, *does* provide a pattern of thought that could serve as operating principle for an alternative organization of the world – and in fact expresses our true nature as living things.

Three. ‘Power’ is not all-powerful.

They have ‘good’ tools for constructing the future they want, and their chiefest one forced our support – the tactic of ‘atomization’ – which meant we could neither come together and organize for ourselves, or view from high enough above to see ‘the whole’... and so... we never had a big enough goal – nor could we see ‘power’s’ overall strategy... of dispersing ‘reward’ differentially... ..expressly to deceive. And folks with larger hand-outs readily believed that they deserved them.

And there we are. Hierarchy made to run like clockwork... self-sustaining.

Four. ‘Power’ is effective... successful... *because* it has a focused vision. Which means... strategically... we must have a focused vision as well. This doesn’t mean a *detailed* vision – just as Hierarchy has various expressions across the many cultures, so will Mutual Aid – but *broad agreement on an opposite operating principle: non-coercion and reverence.*

Five. Our brothers and sisters are not cattle to be herded.

We can only stand with each other if we renounce the ranking and ‘management’ of our fellow human beings.

But many of us are still not done with Plato, with the bizarre notion that there are ‘natural masters’ and ‘natural slaves’ (mainly because the truth is kept hidden and our thoughts are conditioned), not yet clear that the manual-mental divide is illegitimate... (despite it being clearly nuts, if you think about it...)

...and that “life comes first” should be inviolate (not converted to commodities to sell – while we chase some ‘future’ down a hole of living hell... and our true gifts atrophy... and our children languish never seen.)

We will have to relearn a language of reverence, of earth and heart, to honor our sistren and brethren.

Six. A society based in the full expression of our human possibilities must be based in Reverence.

If you do the analysis and recognize what this society (‘class’) is based on – irreverence, ‘making-use-of’ – it’s not a remarkable conclusion to say that we may rest assured the world we want must be based on the opposite quality.

Seven. Hierarchy serves ‘power’, it will not serve us.

A single, unifying, operating principle underlies ‘class’ (‘power’): Hierarchy... and despite cultural variations it is a *global* system.

To move beyond ‘power’ means moving beyond Hierarchy.

Being born into a hierarchy is like being born into an emergency... being born mid-toss into a deep pool... one's very first (and too often last) thought is "kick fast... kick to the top... get there first..."

...and that tape runs without stop...

...until we drop... or start to talk (with each other.)

'The Hierarchy' is a golden tool for 'power,' but 'Solidarity' runs deep within our fibers, the only way they can make it work is if they simultaneously create rifts that seem to legitimate it...

...and the main ruse used... and made diffuse is...

"...the people are stupid."

'Power,' then, is present in the very structure of 'society,' which did not come to mean 'stuck-in-boxes' by chance, was rather made by conscious plan... and... as, a hierarchy *does* "culminate in a pin-point," so long as we accept this experiment as a legitimate social arrangement we will have this problem called 'Totalitarianism.'

And why do we accept 'rank' if not because... of the story called 'civilization'?

Eight. Human energy is not a commodity... to be put on the market... and sold.

Nine. Human beings do not need to be forced to help design and reproduce our social world.

Ten. 'The people' are ready.

‘Class’ divides insidiously, before we even know it we deny full credit of infinite possibilities to our brothers and sisters, ready, instantly, to be free (consider ‘alchemy’.)

Because we’ve been divided from each other, Popper couldn’t know what Thomas Dekker knew, or even what George Sand knew [see “What Is ‘Freedom?’” *Addendum* from “*Getting To Our Future Freedom*” on the nas2endwork.org website]: unrealized interdependency means structurally-reinforced irreverence... i.e. the circuit never completes... all our energy gets sucked away... into the hands of the few.

I pondered a lot how Popper... so clear of thought... so honest... could have missed the implication of such blatant irreverence... built structurally... into ‘class’. What Popper couldn’t see... was the need for ‘Reverence’ (acknowledgment of ‘debt’) to be reinforced structurally... *built into* our built-world.

So Popper couldn’t know what he couldn’t know. What doesn’t he know? ‘The people’ are ready.

The only real reason we seem ‘not ready’ is lack of empathy, but we’ve been designed that way. We will have to *consciously* re-design ourselves... re-learn how to think in earth-terms.

‘Empathy’ jump-starts the process of thinking authentically... because if you can *see* the unfairness... the mind starts working on how to end it.

Eleven. We have to question ‘the whole thing.’ ‘Power’ is global and cannot be settled state by state.

Our new society must be made consciously, and based in an ethical framework that sees ‘all ’round,’ that ‘governs’ from ‘the whole.’

Tolstoi asked, “‘civilization’, for what? ‘speed’, ‘health’, for what?” Those who stop and think, who question, ‘the whole thing’, the *big* assumptions, are those *we need* to move beyond this system, because ‘power’ is global and asserts a sole proprietary claim to the ‘all.’

(Give them their due, they do think ‘big,’ we could use a little of that too, but used to support the inherent ‘wholeness’ of all of us.)

But we don’t get to see ‘the whole,’ rather we’re led to think incrementally. And we on the left have not systematically challenged this, far from it. We’ve relinquished responsibility for the ‘all’... ‘the whole’... the ‘world’... largely out of fear that claiming it leads to totalitarian thinking.

And as ‘totalitarianism’ is precisely the ‘order’ for which ‘power’ longs (and so ‘naturally’ has no such qualms), it has systematically organized the world according to a pattern (Hierarchy) designed to get us there... devised a massive, millennia-long campaign called ‘civilization’ to (con)-vince us of its necessity... and enforced this pattern ruthlessly – by creating and then taking advantage of our atomization.

So how do we ‘begin again’... with consciousness? By manifesting principles and positions oppositional to ‘power’s’.

Instead of atomization we view from the perspective of the whole. Instead of taking without thought of thanks (‘making-use-of’) and then trashing what is taken, we advance reverence.

Twelve. To maximize numbers and to unify, we must leave our belief systems at home. This means agreeing on “the critical underpinnings” of class-society, in order to agree on strategy.

Karl Popper has observed that, “every point of view is inevitable,” by which he means, I think, circular, self-justifying. Getting stuck in them will ever stall our unifying. Let’s leave our belief systems – political, religious and economic – at home, and let *reality* ‘lead’... not our stories.

In the first conversation with my son on the website (nas2endwork.org) I stated that we all have the same ‘purpose’: “to become conscious representatives of ‘the all-of-it,’” and as so-doing defeats ‘power,’ it is to-the-death-throes determined to maintain sole, proprietary claim to ‘the all,’ and will ever seek to divide... to fragmentize... by convincing us to focus on *particular* grievances rather than claiming the ‘all’ – through love... our empathic imaginations.

What unites us is our common longing...
...to own these bodies we walk around in.
It’s time to let *that* reality lead.

Thirteen. Health and happiness depend on our ability to fulfill our nature as living things, meaning, to live free, and to fulfill our unique human ability – to figure things out and to make things – and to the degree we begin to see our nature as living things, we develop empathy.

Fourteen. Our nature is communal. We live by mutual aid.

We need each other to know ourselves, fulfill our various possibilities. It is insane and otherwise unhealthy for us to be forced to live in a manner and under conditions opposed to our nature. We must assert our *right*... to species health.

Fifteen. "...Ere long history will have to be re-written on new lines..." said Petr Kropotkin. That exciting project will come to us in freedom-time. Karl Popper is on our side:

What people have in mind when they speak of the history of mankind is, rather, the history of the Egyptian, Babylonian, Persian, Macedonian, and Roman empires, and so on, down to our own day. In other words: They speak about the *history of mankind*, but what they mean, and what they have learned about in school, is the *history of political power*.... This is elevated into the history of the world. But this, I hold, is an offence against every decent conception of mankind. It is hardly better than to treat the history of embezzlement or of robbery or of poisoning as the history of mankind. For *the history of power politics is nothing but the history of international crime and mass murder* (including, it is true, some of the attempt to suppress them). This history is taught in schools, and some of the greatest criminals are extolled as its heroes....

...A third reason why power politics has been made the core of 'history' is that those in power wanted to be worshipped and could enforce their wishes. Many historians wrote under the supervision of the emperors, the generals and the dictators....

...What is behind this theistic historicism? With Hegel, it looks upon history – political history – as a stage, or rather, as a kind of lengthy Shakespearian play; and the audience conceive either the 'great historical personalities', or mankind in the abstract, as the heroes of the play. Then they ask, 'Who has written this play' And they think

that they give a pious answer when they reply, 'God'. But they are mistaken. Their answer is pure blasphemy, for the play was (and they know it) written not by God, but, under the supervision of generals and dictators, by the professors of history....

...To maintain that God reveals Himself in what is usually called 'history', in the history of international crime and of mass murder, is indeed blasphemy; for what really happens within the realm of human lives is hardly ever touched upon by this cruel and at the same time childish affair. The life of the forgotten, of the unknown individual man; his sorrows and his joys, his suffering and death, this is the real content of human experience down the ages... all the history which exists, our history of the Great and the Powerful, is at best a shallow comedy; it is the opera buffa played by the powers behind reality... It is what one of our worst instincts, the idolatrous worship of power, of success, has led us to believe to be real. (Karl Popper, *The Open Society and Its Enemies*, Vol. 2, *The High Tide of Prophecy: Hegel, Marx and the Aftermath*, p. 270 – 272)

'Plato's Tribe' believes that *they* have given us this world ('civilization'), through 'their' 'drive,' 'their' relentless pursuit of 'knowledge'... 'their' 'thinking' for the rest of us...

("...and many masters are no good at all...")

...that they have created 'neatness out of mess' by caging and 'harnessing'... the rest of us.

They are mistaken.

Sixteen. Know the goal.

Is the goal to treat the contaminated water... or stop the pollution?

Win a skirmish with police... or end the 'class'-system?

“Practice non-violence”... or free your brothers and sisters?
The goal determines how far we will go.

Seventeen. Courage is not our problem.

But we keep it in reserve... and we must be certain... which means our thoughts are *everything*... in terms of keeping us herded... requiring totalitarian control of them.

And if we don't trust our bodies... use our earth-given abilities (while the truth is kept hidden that 'power' systematically builds its vision – hidden with the ancestors we need to show us this), how develop the certainty... the conviction... that we must *use* our courage?

Eighteen. Do the analysis. Analysis precedes effective action.

To topple a system we must tackle what supports it, that means... we must do our analysis.

Marcuse argues something similar...

We are still confronted with the demand to state the “concrete alternative.” The demand is meaningless if it asks for a blueprint of the specific institutions and relationships which would be those of the new society: they cannot be determined a priori; they will develop, in trial and error, as the new society develops.... However, the questions cannot be brushed aside by saying that what matters today is the destruction of the old, of the powers that be, making way for the emergence of the new....

But the demand to state the concrete alternatives is justified... Negative thinking draws whatever force it may have from its empirical basis: the actual human condition in the given society, and the “given” possibilities to transcend this condition, to enlarge the realm

of freedom. In this sense, negative thinking is by virtue of its own internal concepts “positive”: oriented toward, and comprehending a future which is “contained” in the present. (Herbert Marcuse, *An Essay on Liberation*, p. 86 – 7)

...yet very, very different.

While I agree this current mess can only be effectively challenged... by its opposite... our common crystal cracks as he veers into... what I consider the historicist.

The “realm of freedom” cannot be “enlarged” – it is not an animal akin... to this present ‘system’ – it can only be recovered.

Marcuse, like most of ‘Western’ ‘progressive’ ‘intellectualism,’ never altogether dismissed the story of ‘civilization,’ and therefore the historicist myth called ‘progress’ – that ‘History’ is ‘us’ ‘developing,’ from ‘primitive’ to more ‘complex’ – and that our ‘sophisticated’ selves traverse... this historicist curve.

So, how do we “do our analysis”?

Imagine ‘the system’ is a heavy oak table. What supports it?

Hierarchy supports it. What else?

The division between manual and mental labor supports it. What else?

All the false divisions support it. What else?

Our infantilization supports it, our inability to feed, clothe and shelter ourselves. What else?

Our separation from each other, our atomization, supports it. What else?

We don’t know what we want, we don’t have a vision that unifies and multiplies our strength.

To topple a system we must tackle what supports it...
...that means... we must do our analysis.

‘Power’ was threatened by the physical occupations of the Occupy Movement because they undermined the structural supports of ‘the system.’ They concretely demonstrated a model of communal living and self-organization.

When ‘Occupy’ encampments hit the ground, did they worry that they had no ‘village plan’? No. They looked at each other and said, “what do we need? We need food, child care, music and love, we need medics, gardens... and shelter from the elements.”

Helping each other and reproducing our lives is not... computer science... all we need to do it is the skin we’re born in... like the birds.

The encampments showed true power spun of love and mutual helping, of authentic interrelationships with earth and ancestors, and, perhaps most threatening of all... they proved...

...we don’t need anyone else to tell us what to do.

As soon as a group settled on a bit of earth, across all false divisions sprung up little villages, child care, gardens, medics, kitchen... wherever ‘Need’ spoke, ‘Ability’ answered.

Here are what I consider to be the key supports: our dependence on ‘the system’ to reproduce both us and them means we have no land and very few communal traditions...

...and then of course there’s our fragmentation... on every

level atomization, tied to an illusion of individualism, which is actually extreme narcissism, an expression of complicity, and deplorable lack of empathy, all fueled by a *driving* (in the driver's seat)

...Hierarchy.

And even at this eleventh hour we've not yet come to decision... to design a vision... to challenge 'power'...

(...and release ours.)

So what's the answer to atomization? Wholism in communalism.

What's the answer to absence of vision? Picturing our future freedom, and our personal visions within it.

What's the answer to enforced passivity? Action towards a clear vision.

What's the answer to designed helplessness? Land.

What's the answer to division? A strategic focus on so-called 'homelessness,' but always looking long to generalized freedom.

What's the answer to hierarchy? Diffuse leadership.

The tactic 'encampment' had so much 'right' about it. But the one thing it lacked trumped them all... it didn't have a goal.

But despite having lost the element of surprise... there will be a 'Plan B' (as in *Italian Job*) for 'Occupy'.

So... how shape action for maximization of effect?

Do the analysis.

Nineteen. Only a focused vision can defeat a focused vision (and vision gives us courage as it links us to our future... it says, “this is what you’re here for... to live in the lives of the ‘yet unborn’” ... and if that is what we’re here for... we must do it.)

Once we understand the model, the basic pattern, of our future freedom, we can bend our efforts toward it... move steadily to it.

That’s all that’s meant by a ‘vision’ that focuses our efforts. It reveals, exposes, ‘purpose’. And the basic purpose when under threat could be expressed as: ‘life furthers life’.

Living in concordance with our nature – good fellowship and mutual aid – has been the “chief arm” of our survival over the millennia. ‘Health’ requires these qualities for our future.

Beyond that, what ‘the future’ is... is not the point... the point is each one wanting his or her and others’ unique gifts. The world that comes from this can’t be predicted.

So it is within a broad frame that we unfold our plans and our personal visions (in line with our analysis), but the critical first decision if we are to honor our vision is... we must be done with this system.

So what stops us from starting to envision a world based in the ‘all-of-us’?

We have an awesome communal mind... which latches onto the problems it finds... relentless in searching ‘til solutions are found...

...but it won't lift a hair... 'til it's aware... can't start solution-seeking for problems it's not seeing.

For this reason... surely you see... 'power' *must* 'control' our 'seeing'... i.e. our thinking... i.e. our *thoughts*.

Twenty. 'Power' has captured our common language, directed it to serve the myths 'economy' and 'scarcity,' and we must take it back...

...and are not words and concepts, and how we define them, the building blocks of thought? 'Power' has succeeded in seizing our common language and turning it into a tool for reinforcing rigid, fixed, class divisions (Hierarchy...) by means of prioritizing 'economy'. It's time to re-prioritize Life... in language.

Our minds are gardens.
We can plant good things for our brothers and sisters to eat...
...or let weeds o'ertake them...
...let seeds float in on well-planned winds...
(...though seemingly by chance...)
...watch horrors grow by (well-planned)
'happenstance'.



Do We ('The People') Need A Vision Of The Future?

“The opposite of totalitarianism is not democracy, but the open society.”

Machines – to produce what? The telegraph – to dispatch what? Books, papers – to spread what kind of news? Railways – to go to whom and to what place? Millions of people herded together and subject to a supreme power – to accomplish what? Hospitals, physicians, dispensaries in order to prolong life – for what? How easily do individuals as well as whole nations take their own so-called civilization as the true civilization: finishing one’s studies, keeping one’s nails clean, using the tailor’s and the barber’s services, traveling abroad, and the most civilized man is complete. And with regard to nations: as many railways as possible, academies, industrial works, battleships, forts, newspapers, books, parties, parliaments. Thus the most civilized nation is complete. Enough individuals therefore, as well as nations, can be interested in civilization but not in true enlightenment. The former is easy and meets with approval; the latter requires rigorous efforts and therefore, from the great majority, always meets with nothing but contempt and hatred, for it exposes the lie of civilization. (Leo Tolstoi, quoted in Erich Fromm, *The Sane Society*)

If ‘history,’ as Karl Popper says, doesn’t have a ‘point,’ then we all have a responsibility to re-establish human societies on an ethical basis, to record our story honestly, freeing our ancestors from the weight of ‘power’s’ lies, so they may swim freely through our hearts and minds in our daily lives.

The future is either the end-point of a trajectory already in motion ('civilization'... 'history'), or it isn't...
...either its already been decided...
...its' fruition the horrors of seeds long-planted...
...which we must eat continuously...
...*ad infinitum*...
...or its full of open possibilities...
...that, at any moment, given our biological inheritance...
...we are 'ready' to expand into... and it's up to *us* to choose.

Karl Popper believes, and I agree, the latter... that we expand into the space opened up for us – or that we open for ourselves.

Earlier this Spring... I heard a pundit arguing...
...that we don't need... a 'vision of the future.'
"It will come from 'the movement,'" said she...
"...emerge as we do, our transformed society...
...out of our efforts to assert our common humanity."
So speaks Hopefulness-Without-Analysis....

'Heads-in-the-clouds' can't see...
...that we-here-on-the-ground...
...are in the grip of a 'system'-attempt...
...to *literally* annihilate us...
...we have no time left...
...for meandering and unfocused resistance...
...only clear direction can save us...

(...has she never heard of ‘agents’?...
...hasn’t that strategy *always* worked to defeat us?)

The problem with the argument that our future will just “‘emerge’ out of the movement” is that there is a train in motion and it’s headed right for us... we either stop it... or we don’t. The whimsical hope of ‘emergence’, from my perspective, is an abdication of our responsibility to do the analysis... to show brothers and sisters stuck in survival mode the structural underpinnings of a society based on ‘class,’ so that we can decide *consciously*... if it’s time to be free.

Clarity of vision sustains our courage and knits our solidarity.

We can only succeed by focusing our strategies...
...toward a vision that is agent-revealing:
...a mass movement to end wage work...
...communal living arrangements...
...continuous society-redesign...
...self-sufficiency embracing the hungry and
‘homeless’.

When we say “‘power’ is very organized,” the key piece of that truth which deserves its due weight is: *they know what they want for the future*. This is not surprising as they can give their full time to it... their vision... and not just in the

moment but over the millennia... ever maintaining momentum... towards its realization.

Give them their due... they do think 'big.'

To the degree we are atomized, they are focused.

To the degree we think small, they think global.

To the degree our thought gets diverted down narrow side-paths, they view from above in the blaze of the sun...

...and it's simply *not good enough*...

(...i.e. not adequate to a successful confrontation with 'power'...)

...for pundits to say that our 'vision' will 'evolve'... 'emerge'... out of our mobilization... our resistance.

Simple 'laws' of physics should reveal to them this truth:

...a focused vision and concentrated 'power' will ever defeat diffuse goodness.

Dilute resistance dropped into the globe...

...each drop open host to agents...

...can't marshal a challenge...

...for the 'all' of it...

...can't bring us our strength...

...which is *numbers concentrated*...

(...consecrated...)

...by a vision.

After talking to a man who took exception...

...to my suggestion that 'Occupy' is experiencing deflection...

...without a clear analysis...
...I felt a need to explain more clearly.

A movement can be pulled off-track... convinced to
fract...

...sent scurrying into futility... following false paths...
...while the line given... by the focused-hope of
'vision'...
...before which we should stand every act...
...against that measure...
...when doubt is inserted... we collapse.

Protest has always existed under 'class,' and while today,
no doubt, it's much more extensive, it's still contained by
'what-is'...when an alternative operating premise is not
being advanced.

Is achieving future freedom a matter of "making
'democracy' real"? Even assuming 'democracy' could be
made free of the influence of 'power', there is no way to
free it from its hierarchical structure. 'Voting' – in order
to pass forward (upward) decision-making authority
and responsibility (to, inevitably, 'power') – results in
fragmentation...

...atomization of action...
...minimization of *individual* power...
...which is the only effective check to 'power'.

‘Democracy’ is a politics of ‘want’... of manufactured ‘scarcity’... with roots in elitism... powered by ‘class’ (and purposed to maintain it)... it can never take ‘power’ to task.

I believe Popper inadequately credited the degree to which the ‘representative’ structure of ‘democracy’ reproduces this elitism, as well as the degree to which the ‘educational’ system (which he hoped could serve as a corrective) was likewise captured by ‘power’...

...and, ultimately, the truth that ‘democracy’ is but a name, a mask, a face... to hide totalitarianism behind.

Ironically, Karl Popper believed that because of the persistent up-cropping of totalitarian thinking, nation-states are needed to resist tyranny. But with world-wide, simultaneous thinking this possibility shrinks exponentially.

Right now we have a ‘world’ designed by an abandoned child hanging in a tree, is it any wonder ‘balance’ has been a casualty of an obsessive need for safety, disguised as ‘supremacy’?

But though ‘beginning again’ in this phenomenal moment is a survival-imperative, there’s really nothing phenomenal about it.

We have to remember the mindset of ‘founding,’ the spirit of ‘new beginning,’ and the excitement of it.

Wherever life congregates, little societies arise. Kropotkin shows this with other species in *Mutual Aid*, and we humans are no different, whether it’s Eatonville, Florida... or Auschwitz.

We *want* to tap into the energy of ‘founding,’ to reclaim our full inheritance, our full set of possibilities, to be fully creative, hear enduring voices speak... to hear, i.e., the truth.

When we model ourselves on our nature... freedom... we begin again with each fresh challenge... that blows in on the wind.

“Creatures of habit” we are called...
...when living under ‘class’...
...we breathe, we cook, we share our meals...
...it’s true, these things are...
...‘habitual’...
...but beyond that, we are so... flexible...
...so freshly interested each moment...
...in every new thought... sight...
...and subtle change in our environment... that...
...our most distinctive quality may be...
...the degree to which we...
...refresh our habits... habitually.

But some among the ones who (all unconscious) defend rank, claim to fear the loss of ‘individuality’ when we grow together collectively... in supportive mutual aid. Kropotkin denies this absolutely, says that what is true for ants and bees is certainly no less true... for we:

In that immense division of the animal kingdom which embodies more than one thousand species, and is so numerous that the Brazilians pretend that Brazil belongs to the ants, not to men, competition amidst the members of the same nest, or the colony of nests, does not exist. However terrible the wars between different species, and whatever the atrocities committed at war-time, mutual aid within the community, self-sacrifice for the common welfare are the rule. The ants and termites have renounced the “Hobbesian war,” and they are the better for it. Their wonderful nests, their buildings, superior in relative size to those of man; their paved roads and overground vaulted galleries; their spacious halls and granaries; their corn-fields, harvesting and “malting” of grain; their rational methods of nursing their eggs and larvae, and of building special nests for rearing the aphides whom Linnaeus so picturesquely described as “the cows of the ants”; and, finally, their courage, pluck, and superior intelligence – all these are the natural outcome of the mutual aid which they practise at every stage of their busy and laborious lives. That mode of life also necessarily resulted in the development of another essential feature of the life of ants: the immense development of individual initiative which, in its turn, evidently led to the development of that high and varied intelligence which cannot but strike the human observer.

If we knew no other facts from animal life than what we know about the ants and the termites, we already might safely conclude that mutual aid (which leads to mutual confidence, the first condition for courage) and individual initiative (the first condition for intellectual progress) are two factors infinitely more important than mutual struggle in the evolution of the animal kingdom.... Their force is in mutual support and mutual confidence. And if the ant – apart from the still higher developed termites – stands at the very top of the whole class of insects for its intellectual capacities; if

its courage is only equaled by the most courageous vertebrates; and if its brain – to use Darwin’s words – “is one of the most marvelous atoms of matter in the world, perhaps more so than the brain of man,” is it not due to the fact that mutual aid has entirely taken the place of mutual struggle in the communities of ants?...

The same is true as regards the bees.... By working in common they multiply their individual forces; by resorting to a temporary division of labour combined with the capacity of each bee to perform every kind of work when required, they attain such a degree of well-being and safety as no isolated animal can ever expect to achieve, however strong or well-armed it may be. In their combinations they are often more successful than man, when he neglects to take advantage of a well-planned mutual assistance. (Petr Kropotkin, *Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolution*, pgs. 13 – 16)

To claim responsibility for the future requires claiming one’s individual power... or... one’s ‘vision.’ So we don’t need *a* vision (beyond reclaiming our wholeness and mutual aid)... but many visions, the re-flowering of stolen power.

What we are facing, if we choose to look, is not just “a *new way of living*,” but *truly* living, i.e. authentically – in relationship with, and responding new in the moment to, ever-changing life.

We long for authentic lives... yearn for it... a time when nothing lies... but offers its true face when met... and true face answers it... when all life lives... its biological inheritance.



Overcoming Atomization

Before we can begin again, we must confront the internalized 'state'.

I believe we have unconscious allegiances that must be made conscious in order for us to move forward to a conscious future.

If our allegiances are with the ancestors who long for generalized human freedom, the earth, and our brother and sister commoners, we will not sugar-coat the truth.

My son, who works with children after school, recently attended a fifth-grade graduation. Pondering how such open, questioning kindergartners could have become seemingly closed and unquestioning graduates, he was forced to the conclusion that six years of 'education' had hardened and harmed rather than stimulated and deepened the sensibilities of the children he'd been with over the course of those six years.

At the bottom of all this there is a real difficulty. While it is fairly clear... that the politician should limit himself to fighting against evils, instead of fighting for 'positive' or 'higher' values, such as happiness, etc., the teacher, in principle is in a different position. Although he should not *impose* his scale of 'higher' values upon his pupils, he certainly should try to *stimulate* their interest in these values. He should care for the souls of his pupils.... Thus there is certainly something like a romantic or aesthetic element in education, such as should not enter politics. But though this is true in principle,

it is hardly applicable to our educational system.... The very number of pupils makes all this impossible in our schools. Accordingly, attempts to impose higher values not only become unsuccessful, but it must be insisted that they lead to harm – to something much more concrete and public than the ideals aimed at. And the principle that those who are entrusted to us must, before anything else, not be harmed, should be recognized to be just as fundamental for education as it is for medicine. ‘Do no harm’ (and, therefore, ‘give the young what they most urgently need, in order to become independent of us, and to be able to choose for themselves’) would be a very worthy aim for our educational system, and one whose realization is somewhat remote, even though it sounds modest. Instead, ‘higher’ aims are the fashion, aims which are typically romantic and indeed nonsensical, such as ‘the full development of the personality.’

It is under the influence of such romantic ideas that individualism is still identified with egoism, as it was by Plato, and altruism with collectivism (i.e. with the substitution of group egoism for the individualist egoism). But this bars the way even to a clear formulation of the main problem, the problem of how to obtain a sane appreciation of one’s own importance in relation to other individuals. (Karl Popper, *The Open Society and Its Enemies, Vol. 2, The High Tide of Prophecy: Hegel, Marx and the Aftermath*, p. 276 – 277)

Sanity (‘health’), I’m arguing, comes from mutual aid. The systematic setting of our children on a path to ‘win,’ in a competition with their brothers and sisters, serves ‘power’ very well, but not our children... or any of us.

But when will we have the courage to say this, to admit what is obvious but never said in ‘allowable’ discussion? Instead, we’re told to ‘fix’.

“If you don’t like it, fix it!” we’re told, and this message fits very well with ‘power’s’ agenda to keep us divided, but not with ours to further each other.

How does ‘hierarchy’ and atomization serve us? How does ranking our children and abandoning them to the market serve any of us?

They don’t.

And when the job prevents us from owning ourselves, to say that we have some limited control within that cage, isn’t saying very much.

No one on the left is talking about our stolen lives, no one is sounding, therefore, the right note...

...that “beautiful feeling of solidarity”...the note, perhaps, George Eliot meant when she wrote:

How will you know the pitch of that great bell
Too large for you to stir? Let but a flute
Play ’neath the fine-mixed metal: listen close
Till the right note flows forth, a silvery rill:
Then shall the huge bell tremble – then the mass
With myriad waves concurrent shall respond
In low soft unison.

Is not ‘solidarity’ – well-pitched – the right note? And is not ‘solidarity’ best expressed by condemnation of the practice of life-stealing – the denial of our right to be whole, self-determinative human beings – for no better reason than

to keep the most narrowly-grooved snug in their ‘stylish’ illusions? (“Determination 2”, “*Unmasking Complicity’s False Sweetness*,” from the nas2endwork.org website)

What is the proper tone...
...as the tsunami approaches...
...when you see the bell of the cyclone...
...hear the creaking groan...
...as Titanic collapses...
...or the bomber’s drone...
...and we’re the target?

And is the charge of intemperance from those who say...
“...*après nous le deluge!*...”
...not a fraud or a farce?...
...a hunkering in elevated lies...
...and dark illusions...
...from those who never would...
...even raise their heads a bit...
...to look for ways to defend...
...the uncelebrated...
– us, themselves, and all the rest of it.

So... what can sound the right note, so thought can start to grow?...an alternative story.
From left, right and center we hear the same story over the airwaves... a story steeped in lies... and this deeply demoralizes.
We need to change the story... think the thoughts that future freedom can grow in.

Love is the root... love is the truth.

A letter from an old school chum, sent me thinking about love. “Love must be the root,” said he, “of all we do,” and I agree. But love, or love for earth, and all that means, is also *truth*... reality...
...*being* what we *are* inherently.

Setting children on an endless quest, not just to be ‘the best,’ but to focus on their ‘healing’ – the ‘self’ as ‘project’... *ad infinitum* – turns them from true healing (in reunion) to salving wounds with ‘self-comfort.’

And when bred to cherish ‘comfort’ before ‘freedom’... to, on the contrary, deny its very possibility, we tend to stand with ‘power,’ if only out of fear of unleashed ‘people-power’ (‘chaos’ being what we’re told this is.)

The critical thing, I think, is to trust our freedom-longing, and to wrest it from the grip of ‘psychology,’ or ‘sociology,’ or whatever dead ‘discipline’ designed to intercept... deflect... and ultimately de-wing our flights of hope. So, critical as well, in this moment, is for all of us to see that true ‘healing’ rests in commonality... mutual aid.

This means regular, purposed, discussion, based in vision-linking strategies, a designing of our future born of common needs and creativity... as well as in the understanding that there is no reason but our training in well-conditioned lies (and fear) which keeps from us our freedom, and keeps us from claiming fully our full lives... in this bright moment.

We need each other to develop our thought. We may never get to the level of societal analysis if we stay focused on the level of personal analysis.

In numerous on-the-street conversations, the priority for action, though variously expressed, fell under the rubric, “develop yourself.” Whether the focus was ‘non-violence,’ ‘inner peace,’ religious ethics, or ‘happiness,’ ‘society’ overall was of less interest than that substance wallowing within the walls of ‘self.’

When I first ventured into Popper’s *The Open Society*, I objected to his use of ‘tribe,’ which he used to describe the narrowing of concern to those who are effective extensions of ‘self’ and (in practical terms) to no one else. I’m feeling him now. ‘Tribe’ is how we (within class-society) cope with having no control... no love or solidarity... the very qualities which... before we were commodities... were our tap-roots for survival ...for millennia.

All the efforts to ‘heal’ without ending ‘class’ are illusory... because we heal mutually, we need each other to heal.

When our focus of concern is narrowed, not only does this leave the ‘all’ to them who want it (bad)... but it does ‘power’s’ ‘work’ for it... serving us up as the ultimate culprits when we ‘fail’ at our narrow goal....

We learned from Karl Popper [see Vol. 2 of this series, *Revealing Division*] that the concept ‘nation-state’ is an extremely new one. Now it’s time to think how, in an eye’s blink, we could be corralled so neatly... made to ‘co-sign’ our keeping to our

assigned boxes... so thoughtlessly.

They not only exploit generational gaps in knowledge, they exploit our (imposed) limited vision, our inability to view from the perspective of the whole, for we have not time (a.k.a. our lives) to do so.

We don't get to see *the whole*... and we're *led* to think incrementally.

So when a pundit says there's only shades of gray to explain how we got this current mess, this *sounds* OK... as from the vantage of the individual soul, it's so... delicate shades comprise us, but from the perspective of societal decline and earth corruption (and, never to forget, the truth that *our lives have been stolen*), only one-tone 'power' stands behind... bleak and unequivocal.

As long as they can maintain the con that symptoms of 'dysfunction' are our individual problems, keep us feeding the project of individual healing, we're kept from seeing the hands pulling the strings.

As long as we're kept looking within for the source of our problems...

...we'll never see... the system.

But when we concentrate and congregate our labor, under our own command... we consecrate our labor.



The Alchemy of Language

'Power' has stolen our words... which were once about our freedom... and turned them into chains.

Our very thoughts are traitors.

We don't speak the same language, we of good heart, and minds set on freedom. And when we try to describe a world in which our spirits can fly free, we find, all unbeknownst, we use the master's tongue.

Any wonder then we cycle back again... continuously... to him who runs the game... and offer our allegiance?

We don't have a language premised on 'reverence'...

...and freeing the earth of predation...

...on 'love' and 'freedom'... on owning ourselves;

...a language that forswears 'rank'...

...commodifying life and 'nation-state'...

...and taking...taking...taking...

...without thought of thanks.

In our language of 'freedom'...

...not premised on 'class'... but in reverence for earth...

...based in good earth-truths...

...*not* 'making-use'...

...we have no need for false categories...

...designed expressly to enslave...

...'market'... 'worker'... 'labor power'... 'economy'....

We're taught to see the world upside-down... and I don't just mean that we're taught to believe in the alleged supremacy of the alleged 'Mind' ('thoughts'-*leading*-reality... through stories...)
...but in practically every way.

(Of course those at the base of a hierarchy see things more clearly... have a better understanding of the world than those systematically privileged by 'power'.)

Almost every word or concept with value attached... that assigns 'cause'... 'source'... 'origin'... 'power'... 'worth'... has been intentionally inverted... turned... into its opposite.

So 'Wealth' is not wealth... is poverty rather. 'Power' is pitiful weakness. And what parades itself as 'Knowledge' is the absence of it.

Popper reminded us never to take words for 'reality'.

'Life'... that which grows and interacts with other life, requires, by definition, an on-going exchange with life. Our 'thought,' if it is to be part of this process, is no different.

To develop our thought, i.e. for it to grow, requires on-going exchange... with the ancestors, the earth, and each other. We're driven to do this... develop our thought... even in a class system. This is good news. 'Life' is still life. If that little seed within exists, and we feed it, we begin again.

But... the way we've been taught to think about the world, the way 'power' defines words and their concepts and categories, is skewed to defend 'economy'... but not our bodies.

Look again at that table, that heavy oak table, the one with the key supports: hierarchy, atomization, disempowerment, false

divisions and the lack of a vision. The professional left (with significant exceptions) mid-level in the hierarchy, and ever-reaching for a higher rung, for centuries has been walloping away at that oak table with a plastic bat and celebrating itself for “fighting the good fight.” Whether the strategy it grabs is ‘virile’ or vacuous, the system remains solid and intact (if not even stronger for the propaganda victory it achieves in appearing to have been beaten up on.)

When, on the other hand, the left punditry could have zeroed-in on re-claiming the story, re-defining terms, re-occupying our words.

If the Left defined ‘economy’ as ‘quantifying earth’... ‘commodification’ as predation... would we not be further along in uniting with our brothers and sisters?

If it defined ‘love,’ ‘healing,’ ‘taking care of yourself,’ ‘health,’ ‘survival’... in, not just communal terms (in terms of ‘family’ or ‘tribe’), but in *collective terms as a species* – and with wholeness in mind – would we not be well on our way to freedom?

Instead, there is a sense of identification with, loyalty to, ‘tribe,’ ‘family,’ ‘class’ (and ultimately to ‘power,’ despite the soothing-sounding rhetoric of ‘healing’), but I’m joining Fromm (who said, “to love one’s flesh and blood is no achievement”) in challenging us to push against the limits ‘power’ gives us, and embrace... *all* of us.

What would this new language look like? You and I together thinking these thoughts are creating it.

‘Anti’, I recently read, is from the Latin ‘ante,’ meaning ‘before,’ suggesting to me (perhaps wrongly) resistance to an imposition, a determination to shake off ‘rule’ and return to what once was... our original wholeness (our ancestors left solutions embedded in words, like breadcrumbs to follow... beneath the shallow terms, a language that looks deep... to earth... to truth... its promise keeps.)

When ‘power’ made leisure its private possession skewed to a narrow psychological interest, all the thoughts given us as possible to think, including the story called ‘history,’ and all the ones circumscribing our human possibilities, were designed for us by the few.

Beginning again, re-making society, with thoughtful intention towards a conscious plan, not of the few but of the broad populace, is a matter of changing the thoughts that comprise it, the thoughts that shape our consciousness...

...the story we call ‘history’...

...and hence our human possibilities.

And only now could we reclaim them.

So the pundit who believes ‘future’ emerges as we make it (which is stating the obvious and no help to guide us) as human beings ‘negotiate,’ to achieve a more ‘fair wage,’ unconsciously reinforces the story called ‘class’ (and helps to maintain a quiescent ‘labor force’) by reinforcing the notion that our human energy is indeed a commodity, to be placed on the market, and sold.

But we're turning to a new story now... it's called... the truth...

...and Popper is key to helping us see it.

The importance of Popper's achievement in *The Open Society and Its Enemies* cannot be over-stated.

Not only did he carry the flame of truth about Plato alone in a bucket across an Arctic blast of resistance... through a blizzard of criticism... he turned that beacon to the overall project called 'History'... by which the so-called 'rulers' establish ultimate legitimization for their existence... by giving it a destination...

...toward which *they*... (is how their propaganda goes...)

...are carrying it... 'system'-hewing, from the vast expanse of facts, using suppression and misinterpretation as the axe...

...to cut the shape... that makes us into...

...'natural' 'classes'.

But 'biology' is the ultimate authority...

...and it bends us ever toward our freedom...

...and 'health' is not a 'destination'...

...not a 'social system' to be orchestrated...

...but *life* in balance with itself...

...a quality called...

"... 'life' comes first."

Getting On The Same Side

Either you see your brothers and sisters as human cattle that need to be herded... or you don't....

My mother... you died eight years ago today and I've been so driven... so squeezed... so bouncing... bouncing... bouncing...
...I haven't taken time to breathe... to think about you...
...and my grounding.
Eight years.

I saw a woman yesterday who seemed to have no home...
...no settled space to call her own... rolling her bags along...
...where I stood hawking books in front of the library...
...a magnet for those with no place else to go...
...to get clean... no place to sleep...
...or hide from eyes that pry... too deep.

She had your squareness of brow... and your pride too...
...I saw in her refusal... to cry... but I cried...
...seeing her and all the hardship being borne.

Anyway...

...I feel you today.

...I wish we could have had the world where perfect love can live...

...we'll get there yet.

Those who dissent are targeted...
...all achievement is used as defense of 'the system.'

To 'begin again' we have to start *manifesting* "having each other's back". This means (among other things) acknowledging *actively* (i.e. out-loud-saying) the above two facts.

Every person has unique gifts...
...each as special as the next...
... 'the system' depends on... *our* denying this...
...giving 'power' our attention...
...and showing each other our backs...
...but it is our brothers and sisters...
...who deserve our allegiance.

'Power' exists to maintain itself...
...and realize its ambition...
...of world domination...
...and...
...it's time to stop denying this...
...to realize and *publicly* admit...
...the stress on those who publicly dissent...
...time to say, "...it's not enough to support you 'mentally'..."
...thoughts *are* powerful, truly...
...but until tied to a collective strategy...
...they are stillborn...
...shriveled...
...weeds.

The universe appeared to him like a vast disease; he perceived fever everywhere, he auscultated without essaying to solve the enigma, he endeavoured to staunch the wound. (Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*)

I don't know a better description of the modus operandi of sincere leftists of good heart – both the non-profit-activists, the self-proclaimed 'auxiliaries' ('helpers') of the 'working classes,' and the progressive pundits – folks who, all unbeknownst, are beset by a 'management' mindset.

Hugo's is the best face of professional 'helpers' (and there are many) who see their role as *sympathizing* rather than *freeing*, rather than seeing themselves no less than others 'in need' of freeing.

'Helping' (not to ignore or diminish the good effects of amelioration), when you look long, is so far from what is needed to *end* suffering ('for good'), it borders on cruelty; as, at this moment, it's quite clear and obvious, what must be done to end it.

The enigma is not hidden facts, but hidden truth, for it is the truth (earth) alone that sets us free... literally... physically.

It's wrong for anyone's dreams to molder on the shaky stands of 'power'... when there's no need to serve these would-be 'kings'... forever skewing things... structurally.

But shaky or no... they'll use our corpses to foot their legs...

...and send us to it... *ad infinitum*.

From numerous on-the-street conversations over the last three months I've come to believe that many, if not most, of us do harbor the unconscious notion that 'the people' (excluding ourselves of course) are 'sheep'... needing 'shepherds' to guide them.

But the group most attached to this Plato-strained-pap are those systematically tapped to promote this conclusion...

...by our institutions of 'higher learning'.

Even the great Karl Popper had not totally relieved himself of this notion, because he didn't see its hidden form... in the 'civilization' story. For where does 'progress' lead if not... to "the pin-point of the hierarchy"?

Most left-wing auxiliaries, it seems, believe in a long, intermediary 'stage' (and, as Popper said, thinking in terms of 'stages... leading'... to the end-point of 'history'... is 'historicist') and this intermediary 'stage' (across left ideologies) is called... 'understanding'... or 'overcoming "false consciousness"'...

...and this is where they come in...

...this is why we need them (is what they tell us.)

"But what about your vision, and how get there? Is it really just a matter of regurgitated facts, or the lack of a workable plan that holds us back?" is what I ask. And the response I hear is a version of... "future as 'emergence'".

I disagree... and think we need...

...a workable plan based in concrete thinking...

(...not 'philosophy'...)

...and what could be more concrete than our deep, deep longing to be free (along with our reverence for earth)?

A workable plan, followed by organizing, followed by demanding things that *everybody* can get behind – obviously sensible, doable things on which all are agreed (like growing earthships with those who need homes.)

(Only Privilege can say, “we’re not ready.” And remember, never forget, we’re speaking for the dispossessed.)

The whole ‘stages’-thing... and ‘not-ready’... and ‘false consciousness’... that dovetails so nicely (unconsciously) with Plato... is massive assumption that ‘the people’ are sheep who must be guided. We believe this unconsciously, otherwise, we’d recognize the monumental wrong of our collective captivity.

Of course we each of us know that *we* – we particular ‘me’s’ – are not ‘sheep,’ and given our atomization all we know of each other is via media institutions, which all repeat the same drumbeat, the same lie: “‘the people’ are not ‘ready,’ they must be guided.”

Even Popper, I think, believed this to a degree... despite it being... ‘story-leading-reality’... and fitting, all unbeknownst, with Plato... i.e. riffs on the story ‘power’ sanctions.

What is absolutely critical for ‘power’ is ‘*control of the story*’. They must always, always control the story, and *anyone* who challenges the ‘official’ myth with one based authentically, in reverence for the earth, puts him-or-herself at risk.

It’s important to acknowledge this.

In a recent recorded conversation [see “07.01.12 audio file” on the website nas2endwork.org] my son challenged the notion that “analysis must precede action.” Young people who see themselves

as political, he argued, who want to change things, to make a difference, believe in “*being* the change we want to see.” So, the reasoning goes, to undo passive conditioning, “get active.” If we’ve been atomized and kept dependent on ‘the system,’ then, “start building community, grow your own food and create local, self-sufficiency...”

“...and then, that... ferment...

...multiplied by some factor indefinite... won’t it, consequently, mean... that we’re doing that “making-‘democracy’-‘real’” thing...

...leading... ultimately... to ‘down-system-bringing’...

...and ‘in-ringing’... a future based on ‘love’ and ‘mutual aiding?’”

No.

‘Power’ is organized. ‘Power’ *actively* subverts. It has a vision of a future that it religiously re-endows, such that even in its eleventh hour, contradictorily enough, it has ‘staying-power’.

I.e. they can wait us out.

It’s worked for millennia, they reason. Why wouldn’t it work now too?

If the existing institutions based on the ‘scarcity’ myth are left in place, along with the division between manual and mental labor, hierarchy, all the false divisions, ‘the system’ simply absorbs dissent, learns from its mistakes, grows stronger, and waits. Then (from their perspective), it’s ‘simply’ a matter of letting the current crop of activists die out (and their descendants with them), and moving, continuously, to make *their* vision... *our* future. I.e. they

have a plan, and the ability to implement it. This is the power of a 'vision', and of concerted human action applied to it.

(‘Power’s’ efficacy is expanded because it clearly knows... where it wants to go.)

Without our own visions we fall easy prey to organized ‘power,’ ...get sucked right away... into *its*’ vision...
... *its*’ plans to turn us into ‘hands’...
...for realizing its dreams of world supremacy.

And now it is the time to ask ourselves the question...

...never heard across the public airwaves...

“...*why* do we serve them?”

...why adopt their vision of ‘the state’ as if it were our own...

...why sacrifice our lives to it...

...never ask for more than...

...to now and then be tossed a bone...

...called ‘Recognition’...

...if we serve ‘well’ our lives long?

We are – as with other living things – designed for ‘service,’ the only question is: “Who do you serve? Who gets your allegiance?” Is it ‘power,’ or your brothers and sisters, and the earth, and the ancestors who longed for generalized human freedom?

There’s a moment in the film *The Fugitive* when the hero tries to connect with his pursuer as a fellow human and he hollers to him, “I didn’t do it!”, and the Sheriff replies, “I don’t care!” He could equally well have added, “I’m just doing my job.” From

Eatonville to Auschwitz following orders will ever and always tend... to totalitarianism. (We tell ourselves lies when we settle... but settling it is, nonetheless.)

Whatever is 'founded' reproduces the operating principle at work in the larger society, which, under 'class' is 'Hierarchy.' And, as we are one world now, 'class' is a *global* reproduction.

These physical bodies we walk around in cannot be partitioned...

...they are organic wholes...

...small one place... small in all...

...no matter how they tell us that to juggle much... at once... must mean we're 'smarter'... but... small one place, small in all...

...no matter how they pat us on the back for following orders...

...small one place, small in all...

...so... again: "how big do we want to be?"

Because when we join hands with our brothers and sisters, regardless of where *they* are at, we become bigger... we bring them into ourselves, into our scope of concern... as Popper saw.

I have been arguing that it is 'power's' commitment to a single story... its clear focus on a goal (the future they want, a future in which 'class' is frozen in place) that gives it its chief advantage, that our ('we-the people's') continuous defeat is simple physics, that a scattered force cannot deflect a focused energy, and therefore that their single point of view serves them as a force.

But I also think that seeing from all sides, to ‘represent’ for ‘all,’ can also be a focused force – to see there are no ‘sides,’ in some sense, only ‘life’... and being rooted in it – and that those who would uproot themselves, and us, and set all life upon a suicidal course, have chosen illness over health, and for our pains to embrace them they but push us further down that path again.

‘Seeing from all sides’ means seeing life in all its rich variety. But before we can relax in simply *being our uniqueness*, in our diversity, we must address the threat the-few-who-would-be kings present. Much as the palm tree resists uprooting winds by spreading out her trunks and sinking deep into the earth, so must we have solid footing to resist uprooting winds.

So the point is not “a single point of view,” but a single love, with myriad expressions, but a common footing in the earth.

We need a vision and a workable plan, staged agreements – prioritization of those called ‘homeless’ – and multiple theaters for realizing them: communal land, transitional homes, community centers and halls. We need planning spaces, and planning *means*, public address systems and big screens, shared spaces owned communally.

We need land for all... gardens... earthships... orchards and pastures...

...but to topple a *system*, we must do our analysis.

In Conclusion

If ‘Class’ is a story that led to Global Consumption, what this shows us in truth is not the power of that story, but the power of concerted human action...

...i.e. we can do anything ‘we’ choose... the only question is, “who is ‘we’? and how *big* do we want to be?”

Imagine the Gift Colossus...

...when we stop using force...

...and trust...

...and agree that ‘we’ will be...

...composed of...

...*all* of us....

If ‘historicism’ is ‘story-leading-reality’ – pulling it along on a leash – ‘wholism’ is, to my mind... ‘reality’... a pattern of thought that conforms with our inherent nature... health and wholeness... and mutual aid.

What does this mean for how we organize our lives?

It means living according to an ethical framework that we – *all of us* – decide.

It takes a lot of leashed human energy to destroy the planet... without it... the earth can spin freely... and start to heal... to the degree we live in balance... harmony... by our human terms of mutual aid.

(Our plant and animal friends give us lots of examples of social organization... and our great earth-given gift is our greater power... to *choose*.)

‘Power’ is very attuned to the concept of ‘critical mass’ in this moment. For them it’s about the critical mass of confused young people needed... to stall or derail this global awakening... and to get them through the dangerous waters called ‘Occupy Movement.’

And *we* must know that there’s a ‘critical mass’ for us to reach as well... that minimum number of determined folks willing... to tip us to our future freedom.

It is only numbers that will win for us our future... or, more precisely...

...a critical mass.

‘Power’ is rushing to reach *its* ‘critical mass’ before we reach ours... and they have absolute dedication to their goal... we must too.

For once it’s not hyperbole to say... that ‘life’ or ‘death’ are weighed... in the outcome of this play.



