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Dear reader

The world is being ripped apart. People of different political allegiance do not talk together and we become more and more strange to each other.

But there is a way around that problem, and that is to truly understand the perspective of your opponent.

To do this however, you have to be strong in your own belief and ideas. You have to have faith in something good, have ideals.

So the answer to all the conflict, is not to have less faith in the basic ideas of the U.S.. It is to have more faith in the ideas of the U.S.

This small package of seminars is a tool to create peace between right and left. Because if we liberals share some ideas with the right, there is common ground.

We have our own things as well, we should strengthen them, but we should meet in reconciliation.

Below you find three subjects that I think are the most important, there are others that are almost as important; economy, gender, military strategy. But we should start somewhere, and this is where we start.

Yours truly

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Democracy

Politics

When the banner of freedom was unfurled at the battle of the Cisalpine Republic, and the French Gendarmes did flow, like a river with a song on their lips to battle, they did what they did for one cause; the fight against tyranny.

This eternal fight will never end, as long as there are people, just new constellations of enemies.

Tyranny is the antihumane pushdown of the weak by the strong. An opponent, who believes that might is right.

It comes in many colours, some in business, some in religious clothing, some in aristocratic clothing, but it is always that. Someone who do not respect the will of the people.

Today the enemies are different, but the fight for freedom is not over, it has only begun.

We will discuss the mechanisms of said fight, and we will discuss whom we may see as opponents in this time, and what we do about them.

Agenda

1. Introduction to the idea and background on democratic thought. Athenian constitution, Plato, Aristoteles, Socrates, Egyptian enlightenment philosophy.
2. Recent development in democratic thought. French revolution, Voltaire, dialogue, human rights.
3. Status of today. Problem of chaotic situation, the threat of "the strong man".
4. External threats. Islamic terrorism.

Media/academia

When the American revolution started around two hundred years ago, it was driven by philosophers. Fierce, warring intellectuals, whom you would not meet as an opponent.

As time has gone by, the fire has vaned, and the ideas are taken over by new less strong ideas.

America will only live by its basic virtues; freedom, justice and enlightenment.

It will only continue to exist as that blinding village at the top of the hill, that outstretched hand with that blinding beacon. That image full of life as a hope for the masses of destitute.

This is why I believe, that the new internet generation of media, should stop, try to envision that mirage again, and live up to the virtues of the old.

But there are certain mechanisms to the writing on the wall of freedom. Certain principles of enlightenment we should try to understand in these difficult days.

Ideas brought to us through Plato and the ancient Egyptians. Ideas of enlightenment.

This seminar is about that; the principles of light.

Agenda

1. The principle of enlightenment.
2. The cave allegory
3. The light of the sun and the light of the moon
4. Socrates and his challenge to the Athenian democracy

Nature

Politics

When we endure the prison of mechanical or industrial living, we miss something profound. The relation to whom we are. A bit of nature enfolded in a grand symphony of interlinking bits of life.

We are the shepherds of life, and if we forget that and start living through a clockwork, nature will disappear and be reduced to a slave.

We miss the grandeur of nature in its many interlinking parts. The singing of the whale, the buzzing of the bee, the quiet pasture in the glade.

The mechanistic view of life that we have inherited from Newton, must be changed so that we do not abuse nature, but care for it.

This we do by understanding the complexities of nature and also by attempting to protect those small pockets of wild nature there are left on this globe.

Agenda

The mechanics of nature according to Democritus

The spiritual link between man and nature

Practical projects to start on

Academia

Man is part of nature, but the deep understanding of this relationship is still not fully understood. According to Democritus, nature develops in a warring between love and strife. Love is first, then comes strife and then again love.

This ancient model is comparable to the Darwinian model of survival of the fittest. Where the strongest species survives in a given habitat. The motors of development being love and strife.

To give an alternative to the mechanistic worldview of Darwin and Newton, my idea is to use the Democritian model on nature instead of only the Newtonian/Darwinian.

This will give us a much richer and more humane understanding of nature, and will perhaps challenge the industrialisation of nature.

Agenda

The model of Democritus

A comparison of Democritian and a Darwinian/Newtonian worldview.

Discussion of consequences of a Democritian view on nature.

Spirituality

Politics

American politics is riddled with people who are in it for themselves. People who care more for their own gain than what they may contribute.

The idea; to serve, is less and less appealing. This is not good, we need to understand the reason why politics is important in the first place, and try to follow these ideas.

According to Luther, one was supposed to work in the interest of spirit. The work one did, diligently and humbly would accompany one in the next life.

This Lutheran work ethics, is at the core of protestantism. Working, often hard, in the interest of the common good. To serve, both the public, but also spirit.

As soon as that is forgotten, the moral fabric of society falls apart.

Add to this, the difficulty of the basic building block of society; the family. Spiritual awakening is not about saving the other or other people, but the continuous striving of all us in the interest of G-d.

Agenda

Basic discussion on the existence of spirit, and how this may help us realise our own potential.

The connection between spirit and the ideal of serving.

The support of the family as the basic building block of society.

Academia/Church

The academic traditions of Denmark are well known in the U.S. especially the tradition of Kierkegaard, the main philosopher of Denmark. What can he teach us about today?

First of all, I believe, that his basic ideas of romance can be inspirational. His entire life was in orbit around a beautiful girl called Regine Olsen. She was his muse and his downfall.

My own reflections on Kierkegaard, or rather my continuous understanding of his work, lies in an understanding of love as a spiritual force.

Add to this, it would be a great honour to introduce the American intellectuals to the Danish heir to Kierkegaard Knud Løgstrup who are, as I see it, unfortunately not famous, though he really deserves it. He combined psychology with ethics in a beautiful way.

Agenda

1. What is the modern take on Kierkegaard today?
2. How can romance be an idea to strengthen religion?

3. Can we combine a Kierkegaard existentialist view on the world with a profound metaphysical understanding.
4. Introduction to Løgstrup.

Civil rights

Church

When the slaves of the south were tied to the land, having no rights, no freedoms no life of their own, the north went to war with the south.

Human dignity, understanding that each little corn or sapling has its own life to live was right. This progress ended up peaceful though. With philosophers using tax evasion rather than weapons to change the course of politics.

Through this process, a movement was born, that put each citizen on an equal footing. Built on the shared rights of each man, be he black or white, or yellow. Through dedication to the basic rights of the republic, rev. King earned the allegiance of the entire society.

Today this movement is more important than ever, because as the fabric of society is ripped apart through mistrust and often violence, a peaceful answer to the conflicts are of a high, high importance. Hate should not be met with hate, but with understanding.

A society is based on good ideas, good actions and good thoughts. Not the negative actions of the hateful.

This seminar is on that path, the path of peace, so that we can live together, side by side in harmony as brothers in many colours.

Agenda

1. What are the civil rights today?
2. How may we contribute to more harmony between the groups of discord in society?
3. What does to lord tell us about being good persons in this difficult time?

Economy

Academia/Politics

Economy is basically initiated by Aristotle. He saw it as "household", economy means household in Greek.

At the end of the day, it is no other than that. A way to find a balance between income and expenses, to save up dollars for a rainy day and expand the income if that is possible.

The great leap in economic thinking after Aristotle was the ideas of Adam Smith. He envisioned a world where all nations would trade freely.

On this idea the British empire was built. An ever expanding conglomerate of businesses, trading and sharing wealth. To the benefit of all nations.

But at a certain time, we saw a flaw in this thinking, and that was when PRODUCTION became global as well. That was certainly not the ideas of Adam Smith. He was pretty clear on this point; the producers or the people of each country should have a moral sentiment for their nation.

This has been the idea behind "Obamanomics". That is a direct support for patriotic producers.

This does not hinder free trade. On the contrary it makes free trade possible. Because if all production capacity is concentrated in one place, who is there to trade with?

Free trade is intimately linked to a local production base. To the benefit of all.

Agenda

1. What are the results of "Obamanomics"
2. How do we track the progress
3. What are the deeper philosophical discussion behind free trade in relation to local production (made in America)