

Keeping the Word and Democracy

by **Ida Magli**

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Representative Democracy is based on only one principle: keeping the word of the citizens. Politicians become our “representatives” and exercise power in our name because they have been appointed to do so by us, who gave them our word. In a democratic system of power, the agreement between governors and citizens exclusively relies on reciprocal trust in the “word”. But this reciprocity is not simultaneous: the “word” of the governors, its validity and reliability depends on the trust and reliability of the “word” of the citizens.

It’s been a long time that our politicians brandished their ax at the foot of the tree of Democracy: they stretched, transcended and finally deprived of authority the initial “word” that originated their power. A proof of this is the way the European Union was accomplished, with almost no real delegation from the citizens. Yesterday, offhandedly deciding to “put on the web” the tax return forms of all citizens, they gave the final blow. The agreement does not exist any more, because the governors declared that the “word” of the citizens has no value, and the signature of the politicians on the documents is not a guarantee of its veracity. The “people in the squares” will do it.

This decision goes against any civil order, so that we suppose (we hope it could be so) that the governors did not fully understand the implications and consequences of such an action. A political system of any kind – even not based on representative democracy – cannot get rid of its duties of regulating and controlling legality and justice, handing it down to the “people in the squares”. And Internet is exactly this: a square. In doing so, the political system would lose any character of civilization, and this shows that it will soon arrive what we used to call “barbarism”. That happened several times – also in our recent history – in the worst moments of collective anguish: for example in the years immediately after the World War II.

Unfortunately this is how things are now: we are living in a period of utmost collective anguish and extreme deterioration of the Institutions; but it seems that very few people are aware of this and are denouncing it. The "debt problems" were used to hide and justify the unexpressed anguish of the People and also the distortion of the Institutions. But now also this last cover-up was cancelled by this action. The ruthless sting of the Bankers is not hiding behind the politicians any more. They are bluntly showing it, they are affirming that theirs is the only real power, which goes over and beyond any democratic agreement. The "word" of the citizens is not the basic value of their system of power: money is. And this is very natural: Bankers love money more than anything else, they produce it and manage it. And now it is clear that they believe that they do not need cover-ups any more: politicians just have to assure them they will be doing all what the Bankers want.

"Jail for debtors" is an ancient medieval instrument, and even during the Dark Ages it was considered too uncivilized to be tolerated; now it is back. Even if there is a limit related to the amount of money, its principle and meaning do not change. In Medieval times, it was in Italy that popular preachers – who remained the only representatives and defenders of the People – denounced the barbarism of the "jail for debtors" and created the Monte di Pietà (Pawnbrokers) to avoid it. Today we must witness that the danger of barbarism is around the corner. If there will not be a starting up of dignity and awareness for everybody, we must prepare to live in a new Dark Age.

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