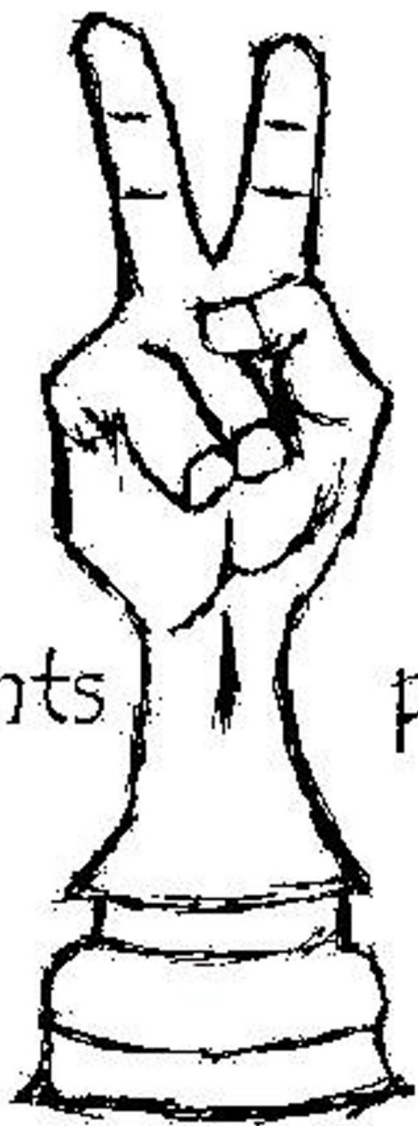


The Learning Process



thoughts

plural

Muzzle Awareness

Dedicated to the obedient

Someone help me understand
what I consider to be a classic case
of how dependency upon
turns into worship of the State.

Who's responsibility is it
to keep you and your family safe?
Oh, your plan is to call the police.
Then what? Sit around and wait?
But why are you even calling upon
agents of the State?

Could it be because they carry
those inanimate objects that you hate?

In addition to the fact
that the police will be too late,
there's another issue that often
remains absent from this debate.
So for the purposes of discussion
and out of respect for human rights -
things frequently denied,
such as liberty and life.

Let us consider the oft-neglected,
yet ample, historic precedent
of when the State
- to which you trust your safety -
is the very thing threatening it.



Mass Media

Dedicated to the class-conscious,
thirsty for information

The other day,
one of my comrades
added her name to a growing list
of people asking
how I stay informed
and sort through all the bullshit.

Skepticism
of any message put forth by the government.

Same goes for church and school.

Sincere suspicion
of Western mainstream "news"
is one of my fundamental rules.

It baffles the mind how so many people
trust CNN, Fox, NBC

As if these are not the same corporations
that told us Iraq had WMD.

What about Huffington Post, Al-Jazeera and NPR?

Two are beholden to corporations
The other to the monarchs of Qatar.
Which is not to say don't tune in;

we should be aware
of what they'd have us believe.

Though if we stop there -
without further research -
then we'd most certainly be deceived.

On domestic issues,

I like Democracy NOW!

The Real News Network, The Final Call -
Russia Today, Global Research, Press TV

On world news, I like them all.

Our world is too complex
to rely on one source that's, of course, filtered.
We have to access several to piece it together
and form a view of the bigger picture.

If for whatever reason

that's too much to follow,

so much going on in our own little world -

as a starting place for good information

feel free to spend some time on Thoughts Plural.



The Empire's Wrath

Inspired by America's murder victims

The absolute terror
against Arab Christians in Syria.

The systematic suffering
of dark-skinned people in Libya.

Children of Gaza know it well.

An orphan in Pakistan can bear witness.

Another in Yemen will attest to the same.

Somalis are all too familiar
with those who installed Saddam Hussein.

Speaking of which, there's an Iraqi widow

who can definitely explain

how the amount of blood on American hands

puts Nazi Germany to shame.

It's not my fault! I'm not in the government.

Those corrupt politicians, they're to blame.

Yet it is we, the American tax payers,

who enable this murderous reign.

And before we go calling them names,

and try to excuse the use of drones,

let us consider how we will feel

when mercenaries invade our homes,
drop nukes on civilians, occupy the land,
or even both in one particular case.

Native Americans and African slaves
explain the wrath staring us in the face.



Her Own Pace

Inspired by the happy, single woman

Maybe that life is for them -
the husband, the house, a few bad ass kids.

She is one of the rebellious slaves,
so she hasn't done what the others did.

Society told them to start families,

don't wait too late

or forget to get married.

Plus which the prospect of loneliness

to most seems all too scary.

She's different.

Not that she doesn't want those things,

she's just not in anybody's hurry

And up until now, her early thirties,

life's been admittedly far too blurry.

So why complicate it further

with what other people have planned?!?

Not the type to suffer in silence,

going through life with her head in the sand.

Doesn't conform to the status quo,

nor leave her decision-making to others.

And she'll probably scream
if one more person asks,
"When are you going to be a mother?"
Now it's as if
her preference is in doubt.
Being gay is of what she's suspected.
Although among the groupthink crowd,
such ignorance should be expected.
Dignified and full of grace,
a delightful smile across her face.
More than happy
with the life she's chosen -
Walks her own path,
sets her own pace.
So no she's not crazy, nor a lesbian.
She's most certainly not a bitch.
No family vacations to Disney World,
instead - to Europe, she takes solo trips.



The Socio Politic

Dedicated to the deceived,
the disenfranchised,
the proletarian desperate for political freedom

Mayhem. Chaos. Confusion.

These are the myths,
what the Establishment would have us believe.

The powers that be
know well what it is
and they know exactly what it will achieve -

Freedom
of choice, of speech, of movement.
It's literally the only construct that can.

All the others, they have their limits.

Just took us a while to understand
that dictatorship and democracy
are both illegitimate systems.

In their propensity for tyranny,
they have more in common than different -
same goes for Jews and Christians.

But hold up! Democracy is good!

At least that's what they taught me in school.

Ever felt what it's like to be a minority
living under majority rule?

Should people need a specific law
so that their "rights" can be protected?

Or would you rather a society
where all of humanity is respected?

If the former, keep on the current course;

genocide is your destination.

If the latter, consider an alternative,

what I call a beautiful situation™

A concept characterized by liberty

contains no such thing as a tax.

Non-Aggression is well-respected

and we Voluntarily interact.

Humans choosing to come together

for mutual interest

is not controversial.

I say we cast aside

the caste system

and reorganize into a circle.

But I can only decide for myself;

same goes for you

and everyone you know.

Research some political systems,
and revolutionize your existence,

by realizing

Anarchy is the way to go.



Home to Roost

Inspired by the bird
who fell frozen dead from a bough,
without ever having felt sorry
for itself

Across the entire planet
there seems to be a resounding theme.

A most sincere desire for freedom
is nearly bursting at the seams.

For centuries on end,
subject to psychosocial stress.

Kidnapped, tortured, even murdered
yet few consider them oppressed.

But they are. And they're sick.

Sick of having their homes destroyed,
sick of life without liberty.

Sick of being slaughtered wholesale
and living with little to no dignity.

On the cool, they didn't do shit
to we who claim superior status.

Freedom of movement, a healthy ecosystem,
the deserved Earthly matters.

Unfortunately for them,
some others feel that they're not entitled.

But the beautiful thing

is how sharp their instincts grew
in this time that they've sat idle.
They won't be clothes forever.
Nor entertainment for their captors.
The medical tests will soon be over.
So will the days of them on a platter.
A matter of time is what it is
til they recoup what's been denied.
When the animals rise in revolution,
there will be no place humans can hide.



The Learning Process

Dedicated to the educated fools

To those out there with college degrees,
me included, I have a couple myself.

So I say this directly into the mirror,
more so than to anybody else.

The real worth of those pieces of paper
can be measured in the following terms...

How much they've increased
our body of knowledge
versus merely our potential to earn.

Setting aside the probability of
those earnings cancelled by debt,
consider the wasted time and effort
trying to master how to take tests.

From food production to self-defense,
think of the classes left untaught.

Now questions demand we ask -
Was all that schooling just for naught?

Did I make the best use of my time?

Did I do it for money?

Or did I do it for the knowledge?

Would I honestly even go to college
if I could redo that whole situation?

Because now I see that
the road to consciousness
is marked by **self**-education.



Clash of Civilizations

Dedicated to the wage slave

There's a woman, let's call her Bianca,
she sits in her cube eight hours a day.

Doesn't necessarily enjoy it but,
she knows the bills gotta be paid.

Another young lady, her name is Vanessa.

In her world money doesn't exist.

And I know what you're thinking -

Without any money,

how on Earth does she subsist?!

How does she buy the things she needs?

Why get out of bed?!? What's her motivation?

She says, "All my needs and wants
are easily met through automation."

Her motivation is her vocation,
see Vanessa's a writer, she loves to imagine -

fictional tales emit from her mind.

Bianca accepts her condition
perfecting the lie – everything's fine,
as she juggles three forms of debt,
a mortgage, a car and a student loan.

Her taxes go straight to the Pentagon;
somebody's gotta pay for those drones.
Don't get it twisted, Vanessa works, too.
It's just that none of her labor is wasted.
Enriching the rich with her life's blood
is a problem that she's never faced with.
At the vertical farm that feeds her community,
she puts in four hours a month.
Though Bianca labors for worthless paper,
she still can't afford the things that she wants.
Solar panels on Vanessa's roof
provide her with free, renewable power.
But for Bianca to pay her electric bill,
she has to slave at least six hours.
And she also sits in gridlock traffic,
to and from the plantation.
While the manual labor in Vanessa's world
is done with robotics and automation.
The shackles of debt don't have to exist.
Nor does Bianca's rat race.

Just ask Vanessa
how good life can be
when the economy is resource-based.



She's Beautiful

Inspired by the people of Uruguay,
the people of Washington State
and the people of Colorado

She smells as sweet as She tastes.
And feels much better than she looks.
Now, of course, I can only speak for me,
and the millions of my species
who I think would agree.

Let's see...

She helped her with her nausea
and prevented his asthma attack
She provided relief for her arthritis,
as well as the pain in his back.
To Her medicinal and cultural value
human history will attest.
Peace to the troops
with post-traumatic stress.
It's to Her they owe their rest.
Much respect to The People of Uruguay
Colorado and Washington State -
and the revolutionary, genius inventor.
She's what helps her to create.
As far as the politics of the situation -

another discussion for another day.

But I do have a non-rhetorical question

for The People, not the legislature.

Who ever gave these heathens permission

to criminalize Mother Nature?!?



I Salute You

Inspired by the war resisters, the draft dodgers,
the conscientious objectors, the AWOL,
the whistleblowers, the deserters,
the heroes

That smile on your face,
the song in your heart,
solemn reminders of my own enlistment.

Then a brick wall called reality hits,
that naive mind state - you miss it.

Tales of glory now stories of murder.
Medals and ribbons become badges of shame.

Pride turns into disgust until
only a shell of yourself remains.

But you were just following orders,
protecting your countrymen,
defending your nation.

Then your stomach drops, your bowels loosen,
the lump in your throat -
that's a corporation.

The war profiteer,
the real reason you fight.

They make the bombs and the prosthetic limbs.

Your favorite politician is on their payroll.

Now that you know,
you refuse to go again.

You refuse to trade blood for oil.

You refuse to slaughter civilians.

You refuse to invade working-class homes
and tear mothers away from children.

Knowing your enemies are not in a cave
or in some distant desert.

But rather on Wall Street and Capitol Hill,
inking no-bid contracts on corporate ledger.

You do it for the soldier next you,
and I get it - that's what's important.

Yet the monetary system
that put you both in uniform -
nothing short of extortion.

What matters most
is how you respond to that feeling,
you know something's not right.
For laying down arms and joining the resistance,
I salute you for refusing to fight.



My Fellow Humans

Dedicated to my bigoted brethren,
the heterosexual majority

This brother recently opened up to
his fam with a piece of his personal business.

And what I'm trippin on

is how, in 2014,

so many people still don't get this.

As difficult as it must've been

to share his sexual orientation,

I doubt if he thought

that just being honest,

would bring such scorn and condemnation.

Being gay is forbidden by God!

That's written in scripture, I read it myself.

Last I checked,

God didn't author those books,

they were written by somebody else -

imperfect humans - whose opinions

we can value however we'd like

Keep in mind though,

just being strongly believed

doesn't make those opinions right.

Well I disagree with that lifestyle.

Far as I'm concerned,

being gay is a choice.

Let me ask you this, Mr. Heterosexual,
Could you choose to be attracted to boys?

I don't care what you say,

cuz I still think it's unnatural.

Well I tend to agree

with the body of research

that says your statement is not factual.

Dozens of different species

practice homosexual acts.

Instead of carrying around such bigotry,

try researching a few of the facts.

Our friends and family, our fellow humans

need more acceptance, not more grief.

Not more judgment, not more rejection.

More happiness. More peace.



When Society Grows Great

Inspired by those who dare to imagine

Look around.

If you honestly think
this is the only option,
it's my pleasure to tell you –
you're wrong.

Since our sacrifice and endurance
has already compelled us to be strong,

Let us imagine the possibilities!

No need to settle for status quo.

See the future is unwritten;

it is us who shape it as we go.

Understand the odds enormous.

Yes, it takes time to enact the vision.

What must be highlighted

to the utmost,

in one proletarian opinion,

is that in order for us to reclaim our power

and make our own decisions,

we cannot be so pre-occupied

with distraction and division.

We can almost put our finger on it,
finally learning how to frame it.

The responsibility to change it
comes with that new awareness
of a problem we didn't create.

When old men plant trees
whose shade they
know they won't see
is when societies grow great.



Revolutionary Gratitude

Inspired by those
who tremble with indignation
at every injustice

Literacy rates soared
thanks to a program she pioneered.
Global outreach reached new heights
with the software he engineered.
Using their own resources,
without asking for loans or grants,
they helped the people of a developing nation
build a water treatment plant.
Since they could see the impending crisis,
a future marred in economic pain,
they took it upon themselves to build
a community that's self-sustained.
She organized a worker's strike.
He planned an effective boycott.
They inflicted corporate property damage
while participating in Black Bloc.
He shared independent news,
now a few less sheep are deaf and blind.
Though not on purpose, she made a few enemies
over the course of agitating minds.

He stood in the way of the bulldozer
that tried to demolish her family's home.

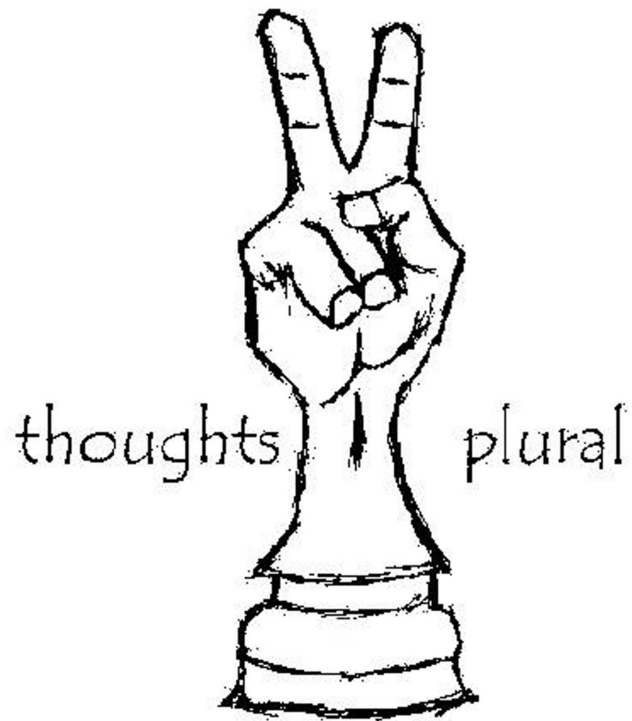
She threw tear gas back at the cops
almost immediately after it was thrown.

They engaged in guerilla warfare
and now they're facing extreme rendition.

Tears filled his eyes when Occupy
defeated the sheriffs that tried to evict him.

Such beautiful people, I truly adore,
Because they **live**, they don't just exist.
On behalf of humanity, much respect
and heartfelt thanks to the activists.





The spoken word audio version of The Learning Process is now available for
download at ThoughtsPlural.com

Thank you for your support!!