

NEW RULES FOR THE LEFT

I have to confess, after my realization, my first intention was to provide a map of dangers. But I believe if you hear this solution, you will know these rules are not only favorable to what we do now-- but feel like you have heard them before, and know the other way is unthinkable. We have at hand an opportunity that comes once a century, and in less strangely modern times, much rarer than that. These words, though favorable, may be hard to hear.

- We must never be so *certain* that we are helping people. There are many ways one might help that hurt, and make others wound and harm.
- Not just the most loving but the most hateful on earth all have something to say— if only you listen carefully enough.
- Those on the Right, let us indeed spar with them. But first, do this: find those of them you love the most. To measure the others against.
- Never seek to convert Right to Left. They are who they are for good reasons. If ever you tempt one lost among them to come your way, it will be by their own accord. Do not call to them; only be yourselves, and they will be drawn to you.
- It is true that we argue to impress our friends. But we should argue first to impress our enemies.
- For those who shout: “what about the awful among the Right who are manifestly hateful?” Indeed, the Right should behave themselves— but for their benefit, not for ours. Today, scold less, so that you may first learn kindness.
- When you speak with the unreasonable on the Right, point them to the best of their own, not of ours... or would you order a bad dog to become a cat?
- Do not take on more than you can. You are only one person. Never desire to hide your weakness in a crowd-- rather first make yourself strong, to improve any group you seek to join. Aim to fix the world’s biggest problems-- but earn your way there, step by step.
- Our care for the disadvantaged must be focused, ***laser-sharp***. And be used, to the best of our ability, to build what is needed most by the many, and only those who we have the power to help. And let everyone come to that care by their own accord or accident. Care, unasked for or unneeded, can wound many, especially those who are already weak.

- If we see an opponent shift from a worse position to a merely bad one— the very worst we could do is continue to scorn. Be generous, reward progress. You don't have to give up your own position to be kind. But sometimes you should.
- We must have the courage to attack our own convictions, first and always, to improve them. Take your issue and turn it, see it from all angles, and *want* to find the flaw.
- If we ever find ourselves yearning to defeat the Right entire, we have already become lost, and should find our way again. Rather, wish the best for them.
- We are Strange; and that is the source of our strength. To call Strange Normal should seem to us a terrible weakness, and we should applaud such remarks only when intended with terrible Strangeness.
- There is a Normal and it is Good... *just not for us!*
- As the Right should let us be Strange in our own way, we must let the Right have their traditions and order. Left and Right must share the same world, and must seek to *compete*— not to war.
- History develops imperfectly. But it *can* develop, if we let it. We must not resent imperfections of the past— we must be grateful for improvement. And attack new imperfections *as we find them*. Not those we fear in future or past— those we may conjecture, but only to improve our posture, not to win arguments of the day... for how could they?
- Encourage others to seek Good; never *force* others to grant Good absent their volition.
- Strong rules or corrective action may of course be necessary— only, as much as needed, and only when needed. Just as it should be with your truest friends, why shouldn't it be for the world you hope to build?
- Beware of facts, and any who quote them.... instead of *using* them to build.
- When you argue, repair emotion first-- only then apply intellect together.
- Beware of anything called news today-- for do you think it gives you facts? No, it gives you cruelty, which makes you crueler, and feeds off your cruelty. When you want politics or news, look for only one thing: a serious and quiet discussion between the most well-spoken you can find. The rest will now be nothing to you. And see today how much there is.

- If you cannot be serious about politics, do not talk of politics. The mocking laugh is for less troubled times than these. Rather, use good humor, and the friendly laugh, among those you earn trust, to help all survive. Remember: today *all* can see *all*. So always appear to seek trust. Therefore *do* seek it. For to merely appear to seek trust is to deceive.
- When you wish to adventure, adventure. But when you wish to build, do not invite all or build for the whole world. Make your world where you are, under your feet. And only when you are happy with it, build your world larger.
- Never mistake material comforts for human dignity. Rather, let us arrange material into a form that *generates* human dignity, as best we can, over time, as you would plant a garden and then step back and watch all grow.
- Hate can appear in forms most friendly. So celebrate caution-- bravely, not fearfully.
- Love all, even those who Hate. Maybe you roll your eyes-- but I claim science will soon suggest you were the dreamer, and I the realist.
- Whenever you hear cruel, unkind words... Look beneath them for meanings less cruel. Until you find a principle that you both share. Only then may you help the one who speaks cruelty.
- If you can find nothing helpful beneath the words of the cruel-- then you speak with one who is lost to you. Though they may not be lost to others.
- Never presume Hate until necessary; or you will call it into being.
- Question authority. But never fear power. For power is what you seek with every expression you make, though today you won't admit it. Good power... this should be sought and applauded by all! Not condemned by association.
- "Strength is a virtue." It is not always easy for we Strange to hear those words. But remember them. For without strength, there can be no kindness, and without kindness, no strength.
- Seek to make no words taboo, and neither demand nor force no one's language. Only pleasantly encourage tact! And social graces. This will sound wrong to so many of you, I must speak more: words like "power" and "weakness" should not be feared the way they are today— and they are feared especially by we who claim to be so open-minded. That is why we are so troubled. For in the world we always wished to build, but didn't know how, leaders and followers should be leaders and followers again; not bosses and not workers, though they will make many works. For in a more perfect world, those would be free choices by all. And if ever your leader of the day sins by betraying your trust, the greatest

gift you could give would be to leave and seek another. But today, our badly-made world makes all such good choices nearly impossible. Yet few realize how trapped they are. And thus our bitter anger and resentment towards each other.

- As we heal from the current brokenness, our first task is not to cushion the whole world. But to build a strong cushion beneath *us*. To catch those who fall, those who run from cruel masters, or who jump too high or too far. *And all those must fall*. But when they hit the bottom, they will not be crushed; what we build will be there. And must catch them. And we must build that cushion for *all* of *us* and not just *some*. And do not build it for the entire world and fail. Start *here*. Then simply show what we have. And if all outside watch, they won't rush to ours, they will build their own. And we should not deny them the joy of that work, because it will be good work. And surely the Right will see this, and what it allows for their project, and wish to protect it-- not to punish for punishment's sake.
- There will yet be hard issues to decide, and no rules can help you decide them. So you must judge on your own— only aim to judge rightly! And scold as needed, but avoid warrantless scorn.

Make all this your task. And only when you feel you have begun in earnest, have you earned the right to ask as much from any individual on the other side. If both Left and Right can repair themselves and work together, at this time when it seemed most unlikely... we will soon enjoy a society we can all be much prouder to call our own. If we fail, or run from our tasks and each other, I claim we risk another century of darkness.