

Political Philosophy

Philosophic liberality is the recognition of the preeminence of the individual over any external-based, centralized, collectivist scheme. A philosophic liberal cultivates the sovereign liberty of the inner life as a true predicate for individual freedom in the outer life. A genuine political liberal is a philosophic liberal who focuses on making things what they ought to be (aligned with the progress angels), advocating for the exercise of individual freedom in the service of social progress. A genuine political conservative is a philosophic liberal who focuses on maintaining the moral values of that which is and has been (aligned with the religious guardians), by translating those values into forms that are attuned to the individual freedom of the next generation of society.

If political liberals revert to man's natural inside-out state, if they are not philosophic liberals first, then they cease to be liberals. When their inclination toward their unity consciousness is debased, their true, spiritual idealism becomes false, material idealism; and a satisfying, internal embodiment of spiritual "unity" is replaced by a desire for external, collective, material "uniformity". Subsequently as leftists, and in their quest for social progress via an external-based, centralized, collectivist scheme, they are illiberal, increasingly totalitarian as individuals, and eventually fascist as a collective.

If political conservatives revert to man's natural estate, then they likewise cease to be conservatives; however, because of their inclination toward their individuality consciousness, their subsequent path as rightists is antithetical to that of the leftists. As chiefly external-based, pragmatic, material individualists, they lack the motive and insight to "conserve" moral values forward into the future; instead, they are driven to "preserve" the mores of the past--rejecting progress. Indeed, they deem these legacy forms to be authoritative, but their aversion to universal collectivism does temper totalitarian tendencies.

[Note: For further reflection on "the preeminence of the individual", examine the elucidations by the revelators in paragraphs 138:7.1, 170:2.5, 170:3.11, and 170:4.3 of The Urantia Book, where the keyword is spelled "pre-eminence". All four of these references, as indicated, are as Paper:section.paragraph, not the oft-used Paper:section.item system. See 114:6.6-7 for "the progress angels" and "the religious guardians".]

(reflections by Chris Halvorson)